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Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt Said To Support Syrian-Iranian Line on Iraq

MM1109125295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Sep 95 p 4

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Al-Shar' Informed Rafsanjani of Egypt's Support for any Syrian-Iranian Coordination Over Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Damascus — Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' informed Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani that Egypt supports Iranian-Syrian positions vis-a-vis Iraq's future. He stressed that Syria and Iran have agreed to confront any developments that could be provoked by certain parties and could cause discomfort for Damascus and Tehran. He also discussed with Turkish Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu the Kurdish problem and Syria's position on it. Al-Shar' extended his visit to Tehran yesterday to complete his talks with senior Iranian officials after attending a conference that included him and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Turkish Foreign Minister Inonu.

Informed sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that al-Shar', who accompanied Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during a lightning visit to Egypt where al-Asad met with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, yesterday conveyed to the Iranian president Cairo's assurances about coordinating Egypt's position with the Syria and Iranian positions to guarantee the future of a unified and independent Iraq, and also to circumvent the Jordanian role and confront U.S.-Israeli attempts to draw up a view for Iraq's political future.

The sources said that raised during a separate meeting with al-Shar' the Turkish foreign minister the issue of the Kurdish Workers Party, which [Turkey] believes receives support from Syria and Iran. [passage omitted]

Islamic Affairs

Iran's Velayati: NATO Action in Bosnia Not Enough

LD0809174195 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The foreign ministers of the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] and international contact groups reviewed the Bosnian crisis at a meeting in Paris yesterday evening.

At that joint session it was decided that NATO attacks against Bosnian Serb positions should continue until UN decisions are accepted.

At the meeting, Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, stressed: The punishment of the aggressor in Bosnia can consolidate peace and security in the Balkans and Europe. The foreign minister pointed out: Western powers have not carried out most of their responsibilities regarding the Bosnian crisis.

Mr. Velayati also declared: We support any move which results in a fair and decisive settlement of the Bosnian crisis.

At the end of the Paris meeting Foreign Minister Velayati told our correspondent: The OIC rejects any plan that does not guarantee the political independence and territorial integrity of Bosnia. The foreign minister said:

[Begin Velayati recording] The world of Islam has stressed the need for the preservation of the territorial integrity of Bosnia. What the NATO states are doing, while constituting a new initiative which is more effective that earlier measures, is not enough. The reason is that NATO members' maximum effort is directed toward safeguarding the UN-declared safe havens, or rather some of the safe havens. But they do not make any effort toward restoring the occupied territories to the Bosnian Government, while according to the UN Charter, the United Nations is duty bound to restore permanent peace and security to the region. A permanent peace is impossible without the evacuation of the occupied areas. [end recording]

OIC Marks 25th Anniversary at Jeddah Celebration

Syrian Minister Defends Peace Stand

JN1109173895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah—The Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] marked its 25th anniversary during a celebration held at the Palace of Conferences in Jeddah today. The celebration was attended by Prince Majid Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the prince of Mecca region, on behalf of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saud Arabia, the custodian of the two holy mosques. It was also attended by a number of foreign ministers of Islamic countries, the secretary general of the OIC, the Arab League secretary general, and ambassadors of Islamic countries to Saudi Arabia.

The celebration was attended by the Syrian Arab Republic's delegation, headed by Dr. Muhammad Salman, minister of information and head of the third Islamic conference of information ministers. Dr. Salman delivered a speech on this occasion in which he said that celebrating the OIC's 25th anniversary comes amid rapid international changes and developments that require us all to be constantly alert and to carry out further coordination to face the challenges which some forces of hegemony hostile to our peoples' aspirations are trying to impose on us. This, he added, requires us to consolidate our efforts because Muslims have sufficient material and spiritual power that will enable their countries to play an effective role in the international arena in a way that serves their issues and entrenches equitable relations with international groupings.

The minister said: Through its leader President Hafiz al-Asad, Syria has always reiterated its belief in a just and comprehensive peace as a strategic option. Such peace can never be achieved with the continuation of the occupation and usurpation of territories and rights. He added that Syria took part in all international efforts aimed at applying the will of the international community and international legitimacy and implementing UN and Security Council resolutions on settling the Middle East issue. These resolutions stipulate the need for a full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories. He added: Syria realizes that Israel is still maneuvering and obstructing the peace process to maintain its occupation of Arab territories.

The minister called for alertness to the dangers facing Islamic countries and for further solidarity and fruitful cooperation to defend our rights and holy shrines and to adopt all methods that guarantee greater power and effectiveness in all political, economic, and technological fields to defend our rights and our countries' interests.

The minister noted that Syria contributed to the joint Islamic information process ever since it was launched at the first Islamic conference of information ministers held in Jeddah. He noted that Syria did so proceeding from its belief in the role which this big Islamic grouping can play in serving our peoples' issues.

Dr. Salman expressed his thanks to and appreciation for the people and government of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz , the custodian of the two holy mosques, for embracing this organization on its pure soil and for the good efforts to support the organization and to unite the stands of the Arabs and Muslims. [passage omitted]

Anniversary Statement Issued

LD1109221195 Riyadh SPA in English
1933 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Sept 11, SPA — The representatives of the Islamic countries have expressed appreciation for the wise and noble role played by the OIC's [Islamic Conference Organization] founders and reiterated their adherence to the eternal message of Islam as well as their adherence to the OIC's convention and in particular the articles pertaining to Islamic solidarity and non-interference in the domestic affairs of the others as well as avoiding resorting to force to attain regional gains, said a statement released by the OIC on the occasion of its 25th anniversary here today.

The representatives of the OIC's member states expressed satisfaction for the development of the OIC and increase of its members to 51 and said the OIC has been playing an important role in enhancing Islamic solidarity and serving the Muslim causes, said the statement and added 'The changes that have occured at the level of the international relations following the end of the era of the Cold War have made it an essential matter to enhance joint Islamic work [quotation mark as received].

The statement underscored the importance of settling disputes through peaceful means within the framework of the Islamic spirit and called for working together to support the Muslim causes.

The statement underlined the importance of restoration of the Arab and Palestinian territories including Jerusalem, Golan Heights and south Lebanon.

The statement deplored continuation of the Serb aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina and called for the settlement of Kashmir and Jamo problem in line with the UN's resolutions and reiterated support to the efforts exerted by the OIC to realize peace in Afghanistan, Somalia and Chechnya.

The statement reiterated the importance of respecting the rights of the Muslim minorities in the non-member states.

It underlined the importance of economic, scientific, technological and information cooperation among the Muslim countries.

The statement called for working together to give a proper idea about Islam and shedding light on the role of Islam in enhancing tolerance and understanding among the nations and underscored the importance of confronting the spiteful campaigns launched against Islam.

The statement underlined the importance of providing the OIC with the required financial resources so as to enable it perform its mission.

It also called for enhancing coordination between the OIC and the other international organizations to ensure global peace and security.

The statement expressed appreciation for patronization of the ceremony organized on the occasion of the 25th annivesary of the OIC's establishment by custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz and and lauded his continuous attention to the organization and support to the Muslim causes.

Brotherhood Assails Government Election Measures

NC1109080495 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Sep 95 p 5

[Column by Mustafa Mashhur: "For us God Sufficeth, and he Is the Best Disposer of Affairs"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Dear God, you know we work to elevate your word and support your religion. Our goal is neither a material world nor a material conquest. We believe that implementing your shari'ah is the best solution to all the problems that our homeland and citizens are suffering. We have offered ourselves, our funds, and everything we own for this purpose. We have borne much suffering and have been patient so as to win your favor. If any government implements God's shari'ah, we will all be its soldiers and supporters. We do not aspire to become rulers ourselves. The Muslim Brotherhood's wish to enter the People's Assembly is not the objective in and of itself; our objective is to tell officials that Islam is the correct solution instead of having them experiment with worldly principles such as socialism and others. We call for this slogan through wisdom, good counsel, and moderation, away from violence or terrorism, which we condemn.

The Brotherhood has always served the issues of the homeland and citizens and is working to keep citizens happy and offer them various services through the legal means open to them. The Brotherhood has never operated outside the law, but always through the official institutions, such as the People's Assembly, trade unions, educational agencies, local councils, students unions, and others.

The Brotherhood has lived with this regime and the one before it. It was not banned as is being suggested now. The government would facilitate meetings between official figures and the Brotherhood leadership, such as al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, when he was president of Sudan, and Yasir 'Arafat more than once. 'Umar al-Tilmisani met former President Anwar al-Sadat. All these meetings were public and took place in broad daylight. They were not secret meetings, even though the importance or significance of some was played down. But they were not banned. A case has been referred to the State Council for this purpose.

The noose round the Brotherhood and its activities has been tightening for over a year now. Associations Law Number 100 and other such laws were issued. Repeated arrests took place in most governorates but most detainees were released because no charges could be proven against them. Every time the People's Assembly elections neared, the regime escalated its activity against the Brotherhood and media campaigns against it were stepped up. Charges of terrorism or support for extremists were pinned on it—all prevarication and lies. There was no evidence that any Brotherhood member participated in any of the many incidents that took place. There is not one piece of evidence that they want to take over government by force.

It seems that those who advised the regime on the recent Professional Associations Law and Press Law did not feel comfortable that the State Security Prosecution's measures and the courts would prevent the Brotherhood from nominating themselves. They suggested condensing the measures, referring the detainees to the military prosecutor, and giving them a military trial without the right to appeal that is usually the case in normal trials. In truth, this behavior harms the Egyptian regime and Egypt itself, which is considered a vanguard example for other states, particularly since the current People's Assembly speaker is the president of the International Parliamentary Union [IPU]. The IPU assures freedom and honesty of elections but our government interferes in these elections, not to prevent forgery, but to prevent nomination in the first place.

Those figures who have been unjustly and oppressively detained and referred to the military courts are known to all for their honorable history, moderation, and noble morality. They have rendered many venerable services. You can ask their colleagues, acquaintances, and those who have dealt or mixed with them and you will find the answers to absolve them of the unjust charges pinned on them. [passage omitted]

All the brothers will persist in praying to God, particularly at daybreak, and repeat the words "For us God sufficeth, and he is the best disposer of affairs," while feeling confident that God will not abandon them if they are loyal to him and turn to him. As for the detainees and their families, there are no barriers between the call of an oppressed person and God.

We hoped the regime might have followed a course with the Brotherhood that was different from this antagonistic one. We feel sorry for those who behave oppressively, because of God's wrath against them. Let them know that God has greater power over them than they have over us. He is the omnipotent, the Almighty. I repeat, and the Brothers will repeat with me: "For us God sufficeth, and he is the best disposer of affairs."

Writer Criticizes Barring of MB From Elections

NC1009162295 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 5 Sep 95 p 8

[Article by 'Abd-al-Mun'im Jabarah: "Preachers of God Caught Between the State Security Court and Military Prosecution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As the upcoming People's Assembly elections approach, the popular forces are hoping for a new era in Egypt, an era of impartiality and integrity to ensure free and honest elections to enable the people to express their aspirations and choose voluntarily those whom they trust and who deserve their support. We are surprised to see a group of these people—who are the best intellectuals, unionists, and thinkers—being sent for trial by a military court. This elite is being sent to a military court after lengthy detention exceeding the limits under emergency law and the provisions of the terrorism law. In addition, these people had been referred to the state security prosecution several times. In both cases the purpose was the same—that is, to prevent them from participating in the elections and running in the next People's Assembly elections. This is because most of them were members of the former People's Assembly and they command great influence and enjoy extensive popular support in their constituencies.

It is clear to everyone that the authorities have exhausted all means of detaining them or extending their detention. As the date of the elections is drawing near and having exhausted all flimsy reasons to keep them in detention, the authorities resorted to the military courts to isolate this elite and prevent them from running for and reaching the People's Assembly. The authorities are doing this because if impartial and honest elections were held, their opponents' victory would be guaranteed.

The authorities referred these detainees to a military court just as some people were expecting measures to abolish or halt the emergency law, shelve the terrorism law, permit freedoms, and allow parties and the popular forces to play their role, do their duty, and take part in the elections in an atmosphere of sound plurality that confirms that the rotation of power is a fact and democracy is a reality, not merely slogans and a cosmetic facade. This shows the contradiction between the responsible statements a few days ago emphasizing the right and freedom of everyone to run in the elections, and the customary repressive measures of the authorities, who do not intend to back down from or even to modify these measures. This also means that the authorities are still seeking any way out—even if it runs counter to the rights of Egyptian citizens to security and safety, or counter to the Constitution, which guarantees Egyptian citizens the right to free expression and to exercise their political rights, do their duty, and participate in the elections. The goal is to fend off and restrict the Islamic trend and forbid its activities despite its visible and well-known status in society.

The government has launched and is continuing a fierce campaign against the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] to distort their image and to intimidate them. Through the national and state-owned press, the government is accusing them of several things. The government has marshalled its writers and sycophants to slander and harm the preachers of God. All these circles are vying with each other and harping on this worn-out tune. It is likely that all these campaigns have failed, particularly because the people sense the truth through the reality of the Islamic action, which is characterized by integrity and asceticism in word and deed. Islamic action advocates link their religious faith to genuine understanding and accurate and straightforward application. Followers of the Islamic trend have stated that they do not seek power nor is power their goal or purpose. They maintain that they are committed to working within a framework that serves the people and emphasizes the brotherly ties among them. They call for work, sacrifice, and achievement. The Islamic trend also calls for and is dedicated to dialogue as the way to the truth; it seeks to serve the people. It advocates that everyone respect and enforce the principle that everyone has a right to freedom and security and to engage in all activities. There must be no restrictions on matters of ideology and thought; ideas must be countered with ideas and views with views. The authorities deny their opponents the right to work, to participate, and even to exist. They insist on ignoring the facts and denying those who hold opposing views the right to express their views.

The government can put thousands of people behind bars and in prison. It can also continue charging innocent people with extremism, supporting terrorism, or contacting al-Turabi and others; and it can send everyone to a military court.

This is not the first time the government has deprived numerous popular forces of self-defense; it has deprived them of this right over the years. But will all these or other measures change the truth or divert this nation from its goals and aims? Will all this make the people turn their backs on those it feels are eager to serve the public interest, practice self-denial, are uninterested in power, and who seek the satisfaction of God?

The government can put thousands of innocent people behind bars or bring them to trial before military courts, thus violating all laws, norms, and traditions. It can also continue behaving as if it alone decides the fate of the country and people. But will the series of arrests and trials by military courts make the intellectuals change their ideology, tenets, or opinions?

The government's has had many lessons fro its experiences, but it seems that there are people in the government or close to the government who do not believe in building bridges of understanding, sympathy, or dialogue in Egypt's interest. There seem to be people in the government or close to it who do not work to clear the air, remove barriers and obstacles, or seek to work together to ensure security, stability, and a peaceful atmosphere for everyone. They seek to cause rifts, instill doubts, deny rights, pollute the atmosphere, sever ties and links, and implicate innocent and honest people.

The popular parties and forces in this country were right and in consonance with the situation when they submitted a memorandum to the Presidency demanding free and fair elections, the right to expression and choice, and the closure of all doors and windows of forgery. More than ever before, they are now required to be alert to what is being plotted for the forthcoming elections. They must link their words with deeds and try all legitimate means to ensure proper pluralism and the right way to share power.

I believe the first step in achieving this goal is through diligent, intense work for guaranteed fair elections and the right of everyone to be nominated and to be a candidate. It will also require coordination among all national opposition forces to confront any form of impingement of the right of the opposition whatever their orientation. It requires a strong opposition in the next Assembly that will be assertive and steadfastly play its role.

Egypt is in dire need of people of free thought and opinion. The government also vitally needs for the truth to be said completely for the sake of public interest. Private interests should be renounced. A word of truth is needed to light the path and highlight our shortcomings. A word of truth for the satisfaction of God and in Egypt's interest.

Palestinian Affairs

Information Ministry Reacts to Libyan Measures

JN1109143995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1245 GMT 11 Sep 95

[Statement by the Ministry of Information in the Palestinian Authority on 11 September; from the "Today's Events" program — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Libyan Jamahiriyah has been subjected to an unfair U.S. blockade for years. The declared goal of this blockade is quite different from the hidden one. With the passage of time, the negative repercussions of the blockade started to surface. The fraternal Libyan people started to pay the price of blockade.

Regrettably, Arab solidarity with Libya has not lived up to a level that would ensure the lifting of the blockade. This low-profile solidarity with the Jamahiriyah falls in line with the features of the current Arab situation, foremost of which is severance of links among the common interests of the nation's peoples and the Arab ruling systems' opposition to what is in the interest of their countries as a result of their parochial perspective emanating from selfish and peculiar interests.

Within this Arab context, which is replete with incongruity in interests, Colonel [Mu'ammar] al-Qadhdhafi took two initiatives aimed at breaking the blockade. The first initiative was allowing the Libyan pilgrims to visit Arab Jerusalem within Israeli arrangements. The aim of this move was to hint that Libya is ready to engage in the settlement process and its arrangements with flexibility that far exceeded the imagination of moderate Arabs. This is to be expected because Libya dealt with the issue of Arab Jerusalem merely through a religious perspective that concurs, to a large extent, with the Israeli concept.

Although the Libyan initiative caused heavy political damage to the Palestinian people, the Palestinian leadership remained silent vis-a-vis this initiative. It merely explained its dangers to the Libyan leadership.

It was not too long before the second Libyan initiative was made. This initiative was represented in deporting the Palestinian community, through coercion, from Libya to the unknown. The aim of the initiative is to show that the Jamahiriyah can mix up cards and place hurdles that may impede the political solution and its regional arrangements through creating a Palestinian crisis. Through this, the Jamahiriyah aims to become involved in the solution and its arrangements, given that it is now besieged and ignored.

Thus, in violation of the pan-Arab slogans raised by the Libyan leader himself, the Palestinians are being used to put pressure on those who have imposed the siege. Instead of using the Palestinian factor as a positive concept to promote solidarity, alliance, and cooperation with the Palestinian people, who are now waging the most difficult battle of their national independence, the Palestinian community is being held hostage so as to be thrown into the unknown, into the seas and deserts, and to create a disgraceful human ordeal out of them. By taking this step, the Libyan regime is backing pressures to subjugate the Palestinian people.

The clear, painful contradiction is that these hasty measures will not contribute to lifting the siege on the al-Jamahiriyah. Instead, they will only cause severe harm to the Libyan and Palestinian people, as well as to the values and principles of brotherly relations among the peoples of our nation.

In light of this, we urge the Libyan leadership to meet immediately with our leadership in order to work out an urgent solution to this problem and to strengthen brotherly relations between the two peoples. We also urge the Arab League to hold a meeting to find the desired solution, to contain all repercussions of the transfer, and to define the responsibility of each Arab country toward Palestinian communities during the transitional period, which will precede the final solution to the problems of the refugees and the displaced.

'Arafat Calls Expulsion 'Crime'

NC1109202495 Paris AFP in English
1543 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza city, Gaza Strip, Sept 11 (AFP) — The decision by Libyan leader Mu'ammar Qadhdhafi to expel thousands of Palestinian workers is a "crime", PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat said Monday [11 September].

"This is a new tragedy for the Palestinian people," 'Arafat told journalists after a meeting with Spain's Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez. "We appeal to the whole world to halt the crime against 50,000 Palestinians," Arafat said. An estimated 30,000 Palestinians live in Libya.

Gonzalez urged Qadhdhafi to change his mind.

"We share Mr 'Arafat's opinion that the Libyan measures are unjust," the prime minister said. "I say to Mr Qadhdhafi that the Europeans are united in asking him to put off these measures." Spain currently holds the rotating European presidency.

Some 60 Palestinians expelled from Libya have been camped at the Gaza border post for six days after Israel refused to let them in and Egypt to let them out, relatives said. They have visitor's permits issued by Israel to enter the Gaza Strip, but the Jewish authorities fear they will stay permanently and so have refused them entry, according to the relatives. And the Egyptians will not allow the group back in the country either.

"The families are camped in the Rafah terminal in terrible and inhuman conditions," said Chukri Karaz. His 60-year-old uncle Abdelrahman Karaz, his uncle's wife and their two sons are among the group.

Libya began throwing out Palestinian workers at the start of this month after Qadhdhafi said he wanted to show that the autonomy deal between the PLO and Israel was a failure. He urged Arab states to follow suit to force their Palestinians to enter the autonomous Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Urges Assitance for Palestinians

JN1209092095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0600 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has expressed deep concern over the suffering of the Palestinians expelled from Libya. He said this is a new tragedy the Palestinian people are destined to face. President 'Arafat instructed the various Palestinian bodies to pursue efforts to seek all means of helping Palestinian citizens to remain at their places of residence, return to work, or facilitating their travel in dignity to wherever they want.

Marwan Kanafani, President 'Arafat's adviser, urged all international, human, and Arab organizations to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinians expelled from Libya.

Official: Jews To Visit, Not Pray at Holy Sites

TA1209075395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0505 GMT 12 Sep 95

[Report by Yoni Ben-Menahem]

[FBIS Translated Text] While the negotiations with the Palestinians on the status of the holy places on the West Bank continue, Shaykh Hasan Tahbub, the official in charge of waqf affairs in the Palestinian Authority, said that following the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment, Jews will not be permitted to pray at the Cave of the Patriarchs, Rachel's Tomb, al-Nabi Samu'il, and Josef's Tomb in Nabulus. These sites are Muslim mosques, and it is known that those who are not Muslims cannot pray in them, he said.

Shaykh Tahbub had not heard Religious Affairs Minister Shim'on Shetrit's remarks yesterday, during a visit to the Cave of the Patriarchs, that Rachel's Tomb will remain under Israel's full control. These places, Tahbub said, will be transferred to us, and Jews will be permitted only to visit them.

Hamas Aide: Differing 'Interpretations' of Party

MM1109143895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Disagreements in Hamas Over Party Formation and Dealings With Authority"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — There are indications of disagreements inside Hamas over the formation of a political party, military operations in the self-rule areas, and dealings with the authority. Some leaders in the Gaza Strip are demanding that a party should be formed quickly, armed action in the self-rule halted, and a settlement reached with the Palestinian Authority.

However, Abu-Muhammad Mustafa, Hamas representative in Damascus, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "There are no disagreements in Hamas. They are interpretations vis-a-vis specific issues of concern to some of the movement's sons." Abu-Muhammad Mustafa added in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "Some of the movement's sons in the Gaza Strip are demanding that a party be formed and that armed action in the self-rule areas be halted, on the grounds that the self-rule areas cannot accommodate armed action and in order to avert civil war and to secure a settlement with the authority."

The Hamas official went on to say that "these views fall in the framework of the interpretations being studied. So the movement is going to adopt or reject them, hence the majority's decision will be applied."

Isma'il Haniyah and Khalid al-Hindi in the Gaza Strip are among the Hamas leaders espousing these views. The two, accompanied by Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq, Hamas official in Gaza, visited Hamas founder Shaykh Ahmad Yasin in his cell in an Israeli jail. 'Abd-al-Raziq quoted Shaykh Yasin as saying that he agrees to halting the resistance against Israel.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT at that time, the official spokesman for Hamas described the visit as "a personal initiative and it was not ordered by the movement." He said that "any statement made by them reflects their own views, because they are not decisionmakers in the movement."

Abu-Muhammad said that "Haniyah and al-Hindi are still continuing a dialogue with the movement inside and outside, and their meeting with Shaykh Yasin was in the framework of exchanging views. And in fact Shaykh Yasin neither spoke to them harshly nor shared their views."

He added: "Haniyah and al-Hindi are good members of the movement. They have a role and will not abandon the movement, even though they have different views. This is because the movement is flexible and willing to consider views in anything except the main issues."

Asked about the guarantees which Major General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian national security forces in the self- rule areas, said, in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, that Hamas wants to obtain from the authority before announcing the party, Abu-Muhammad said that "our movement is not waiting for permission or guarantees from anyone in order to form a political party in the occupied territories and the self-rule areas." Abu-Muhammad wondered: "Hamas sought no permission from anyone about its existence, so how can it seek permission to form a party?"

Abu-Muhammad said: "I do not think that Nasr Yusuf's statement is inaccurate. Maybe he obtained his information from people not representing Hamas who are not decisionmakers in it."

He added that "maybe conditions do not encourage the announcement of a party, whether with regard to local or regional conditions, or conditions in the authority or even conditions in the internal movement."

On the aim of forming a party he said that "the basic aim is the political confrontation with the authority in order to avert other confrontations. Second, to bring in some of the leaders who were in charge of mobilization and intifadah jobs and other activities. And also to return to the movement's ranks some of the brothers who called for the establishment of a party because of new conditions in Gaza and Jericho."

The Hamas official denied that the aim of forming a party is to find a justification for participating in the elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, stressing that Hamas' position on this issue has not changed at all.

Committee Formed With UK To Supervise Elections

JN0909203195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, local government minister, held a meeting in Gaza today with a delegation of the British Police. A decision was made to form a joint coordination committee comprising representatives of the elections committee, the Palestinian Police, and the British Police. The joint committee will be formed to guarantee the holding of Palestinian legislative elections in a proper way, to study training needs, and to define the tasks of security organs to hold democratic and fair elections.

Spokesman Says Jihad's al-Shaqaqi in 'Good Health'

TA1109122995 Gaza AL-ISTIQLAL in Arabic 8 Sep 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman for the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has stated that Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, the movement's secretary general, is in very good health and that, praise be to God, he has not been hospitalized in many years. The spokesman was commenting on a report carried by Israel Radio on 7 September to the effect that Dr. al-Shaqaqi's health had deteriorated seriously.

The spokesman stressed that the movement's secretary general is discharging his duties and that the Israel Radio report is baseless, fabricated, and part of the enemy's continuous campaign to distort the movement's image.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Peace Roads' To Cross Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq

TA0809144595 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by 'Ofer Petersburg]

[FBIS Translated Text] Five "peace roads" will cross Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and Iraq. That is the plan approved a few days ago at multilateral talks attended by representatives of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians, with a Saudi delegate attending as an observer. The plan will be presented to the Amman conference in October. In the coming weeks, the EU will issue an international tender to the tune of $2 million to hold a regional transportation survey on the project.

Despite Egypt's demand, the Israeli delegation — headed by economist Hayim 'Eylam, deputy director general of the Public Works Division — refused to permit international traffic to cross directly through the country's central Dan Region. The Egyptians requested that trucks be allowed to cross directly from al-'Arish along the coastal highway to Haifa, but the Israelis refused, claiming that this would lead to a transportation holocaust in the central region.

— The main highway on which agreement was reached is the Trans- Israel Highway No. 90, which will go from Elat to Qiryat Shemona and will link Egypt and Saudi Arabia with Syria and Lebanon. Highway No. 90 does not pass through densely settled land. A new section will need to be paved between the 'Arava Junction and the Zohar Falls, and routes will have to be built in the Jordan Rift Valley. North of there, the highway will pass along the eastern bank of the Sea of Galilee, and from there, there will be several alternative routes to Syria and Lebanon.

— The Haifa-Irbid-Iraq highway: The Jordanians are the ones who demanded that the road be extended to Iraq. Iraq is expected to gain the most from the link with Haifa Port. A new route now being planned from the Shaykh Husayn bridge will bypass Bet She'an and continue along a widened existing route up to Haifa. An 'Afula bypass road is also being planned.

— An Amman-Jerusalem-Ashdod highway will bypass Jerusalem from the north, descend at Ma'ale Adumim, and continue along the existing road, via the Jericho bypass road, to the Allenby Bridge and from there to Jordan.

— An Ismailia-Nizzana-'Arava Junction-al-Karak-Amman highway.

— A Ra's al-Naqb-'En Netafim-Elat Bypass-al-'Aqabah highway will serve traffic between Egypt and Jordan and between Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The Construction and Housing and the Transportation Ministries, in cooperation with the Public Works Division, have decided that international transportation through the State of Israel will be diverted to the periphery. The roads to be built will serve Israeli needs as well and not only international transportation. Funding for the projects will be divided according to the benefit to be gained by each of the sides.

Arms Talks Delayed Over Egypt's Nuclear Demands

TA1109063095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Regional talks on disarmament have been delayed because of Egyptian demands on the nuclear issue. Military sources say a meeting of the arms committee in the framework of multilateral talks due to have taken place this month has been postponed, but, they say, a working group will meet in Jordan at the end of the month to discuss the establishment of a regional security center. The group will also try to clear up misunderstandings on the nuclear and other issues. Israel's delegation will be headed by Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri.

Algeria

RCD Party Leader Sadi To Run for President

LD1109184095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1500 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The leader of the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD], Mr. Said Sadi, has announced that he will be standing in the forthcoming presidential elections. He made the announcement at a press conference at Aurassi Hotel this afternoon.

Sadi Interviewed on Candidacy

LD1109210995 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] The guest of "Afrique Soir" on RFI is Said Sadi, leader of the Rally for Culture and Democracy. He has just announced his candidacy for the presidential election in Algeria.

Farida Ayari contacted him by telephone. She first asked him if the considerable escalation of insecurity would hinder the smooth organization of the election:

[Begin recording] [Sadi] We have to be clear about the use of some words. The climate of insecurity today is particularly marked by the use of attacks with explosives, which are bloody. I do not think that this is a determinant factor — although not to be neglected — on the behavior of the citizens.

When a movement claims to have a popular basis, yet resorts to terrorist attacks, this shows obviously that it is facing failure. This use of attacks can of course have some impact in some regions, particularly in the center, where the number of such actions has increased, but I do not think it will be the most important element in this situation.

[Ayari] What are the important elements?

[Sadi] Another important element is the behavior of the regime. We have to make sure that its management of the administration — which until now has been reduced to functioning as an instrument of the regime — does not get excessively manipulated, at least during this election. Such manipulation could have a negative effect on the election. I am more concerned about this than about the violence of the Islamists.

[Ayari] Are you the candidate to rally the democrats?

[Sadi] My record speaks for me. I have been fighting for my country for the last 30 years, often paying a high price. It all depends on the Algerian men and women who identify themselves with the themes I have espoused and defended, such as the issues of relations between religion and the state, the situation facing our country's women, our national identity, or the socioeconomic issue of the debt rescheduling, which I have been defending for nine years.

I think that a certain number of themes I have defended — often going against the conventional wisdom within the Algerian political landscape — are the key elements of the debate. I think they form the global perception of my political profile, and I hope that among those who can be sensitive to this discourse, the democrats will be the most concerned. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Newspaper Editor Interviewed on 11 Sep Strike

LD1109225495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 2130 GMT 11 sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The press staged a day of protest today. The strike was decided by newspaper editors in a bid to denounce the murder of journalists. However, most publications will appear tomorrow, Tuesday, and most newspapers will be in the kiosks on Wednesday.

Omar Belhouchet, a representative of the Association of Press Editors, spoke to Linda Abdou after meeting with the prime minister today:

[Begin Belhouchet recording] For two days there have been meetings with the prime minister and several other ministers. A working group has been set up. It will start work over the next few hours, over the next few days. In the framework of this working group, editors will raise the issue of security for journalists. There are many journalists who, unfortunately, still live in very dangerous areas. We want them to be housed in places which are relatively safer. [end recording]

Car Bomb Damages Courthouse; University Ransacked

LD1009220695 Paris Radio France International in French 2130 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Attacks are continuing in Algeria. A car bomb partially destroyed the court building and several shops in the town of Miliana the day before yesterday.

A few days earlier, an armed group occupied and ransacked the University Center of this town which is situated 120 km west of Algiers.

Security Services Claim 39 'Terrorists' Killed

LD1009200095 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement released today the security services said that their forces had killed 39 terrorists in Algiers, Blida, Boumerdas, Tipasa, Bejaia, M'sila, Tiaret, Chlef, Relizane, 'Ain Defla, and Tlemcen. During these operations the security forces recovered large quantities of weapons and ammunition, the statement added.

The security forces have also managed to dismantle a terrorist network in the province of Sidi Bel Abbes [western Algeria]. The 10 members of this group have been remanded in custody.

Egypt

Al-Hudaybi: Regime Wants Brotherhood Out of Election

NC0709195195 Cairo AL-'ARABI in Arabic 4 Sep 95 pp 1, 13

[Report by 'Abd-al-Fattah 'Abd-al-Mun'im and Khalid Salah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a surprise move the military ruler has decided to refer 45 suspect Muslim Brotherhood leaders, including former People's Assembly members, to the military court. They have been held in preventive detention for six months. The referral to the military court is the first decision of its kind in about 30 years. Among the suspects are Dr. 'Isam al-'Aryan, assistant secretary of the Doctors Syndicate and former People's Assembly member; Muhammad al-Sayyid Hasib, president of the teaching staff club at Asyut University; Ibrahim Khalil al-Za'farani; and Muhammad Khayr al-Shatir. [passage omitted]

Ma'mun al-Hudaybi [Muslim Brotherhood spokesman and deputy guide] told AL-'ARABI that the government seeks to force the Muslim Brotherhood not to run in the elections. He stressed that the group exists and that no decision dissolving it has been made. If there was a decision to dissolve the group, he said, it would be a violation of the Constitution.

Al-Hudaybi said the Muslim Brotherhood will not change its position. The group does not support violence and will not resort to it, he said. He maintained that the suspects did not carry arms [against the government] and that they are being charged for their thinking and sponsorship of a cause. Although a decision dissolving the Muslim Brotherhood was issued in the fifties, Counselor al- Hudaybi denied that any former president banned the activities of the group!

Al-Hudaybi also denied government accusations that the Muslim Brotherhood supports violence. He said: We condemn violence with all our strength but the government does not want us to denounce its own violence. [passage omitted]

Brotherhood To Contest Elections in 100 Seats

MM0809161095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Harbi: "Deputy General Guide Tells AL- SHARQ AL-AWSAT: 100 Muslim Brotherhood Members Will Take Part in Elections in Egypt"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — The outlawed Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood group has decided to take part in the next parliamentary elections, scheduled to be held in November to elect 448 deputies.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that more than 100 Brotherhood members will take part in the elections in about 100 constituencies in coordination with the Labor Party, which is forming a tripartite alliance with the Brotherhood and the Liberal Party.

Shaykh Mustafa Mashhur, deputy general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he had expected, before the referral to court martial of 50 members of the group, that the Muslim Brotherhood would win nearly a third of the seats in parliament, that is about 149 seats, if impartiality and neutrality exist in the next elections. He added: That is not possible now, for two main reasons: First, a number of those arrested and referred to the court martial intended to take part in the elections and we do not know what the situation is now concerning them or whether or not the court martial will allow them to take part in the elections.

The second reason for Mashhur's pessimism about the results of the elections, as he expects the Brotherhood to win no more than a few scores of seats, is what he termed "the lack of neutrality and impartiality" as a result of recent security measures against Muslim Brotherhood members.

He said that coordination is continuing with the Labor Party, and that the Brotherhood is waiting for the Liberal Party to define its position in order to restore the old alliance. Mashhur expected the administrative court to reject the contestation submitted by a number of lawyers against the republican decree referring civilian defendants to the court martial, since there is a similar legal precedent in which the court rejected a similar contestation because the president of the republic has the power to refer civilian cases to the court martial.

The deputy guide said that the referral decision is not a legal decision that could be revoked by legal procedures. It is a political decision, so it requires another political decision.

Ex-Commander on Muslim Brotherhood Friction

MM0709141795 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 3-9 Sep 95 pp 30-31

[Interview with "former commander of the [Muslim] Brotherhood militias" 'Ali 'Ashmawi by Mahir Muqlid in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Muqlid] Do you believe that there is a division at the top of the [Muslim] Brotherhood?

['Ashmawi] I do not believe so, because the transfer of authority within the Brotherhood is rigorously governed by the Brotherhood's bylaws. Discipline such as the Brotherhood members show toward their leaders can scarcely be found anywhere in the world.

[Muqlid] Do you believe that the Muslim Brotherhood will become stricter under Mustafa Mashhur, the first deputy general guide?

['Ashmawi] Undoubtedly. This is because Mashhur grew up throughout his entire life in the special organization [al-Nizam al-Khass] inside the Brotherhood and was one of its leaders. He is now the author of the movement that calls for toughness, violence, and arms. However, at the same time, he is very shrewd.

[Muqlid] So you believe that Mashhur will clash with the regime in Egypt?

['Ashmawi] I do not believe so, because at the present stage he will not embroil himself in any violence which would be recorded against him, because he wants conditions to settle within the Brotherhood during this stage.

[Muqlid] Do you believe that his presence at the head of the Brotherhood has anything to do with the recent campaign of arrests?

['Ashmawi] It is natural for this to happen following the attempt on the life of President Mubarak. The arrests which took place prior to the assassination attempt were not as extensive. The reasons for the arrests are well-known, namely, the contacts that took place between elements from the Brotherhood and members of other extremist groups.

[Muqlid] It has been said that Mustafa Mashhur has tried to keep you out of the Brotherhood since about 20 years ago in what was understood then to be an attempt to eliminate the moderate elements. What is your explanation of this attempt [to exclude 'Ashmawi]?

['Ashmawi] The history of Mustafa Mashhur records that he has contributed to the destruction of the Muslim Brotherhood. He is one of the members of the special organization, which used to operate secretly. It is a fact that no problems were caused by the special organization when Hasan al-Banna was the general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood. The special organization's problems began with the assumption of the post of general guide by al-Hudaybi, who strongly opposed the existence of that organization because of the bloody activities of its members, and this led to a rift within the ranks of the Brotherhood, so much so that al-Hudaybi refused to have his picture taken with members of the special organization on their release from prison. At the time, he uttered his famous words: "I shall not join murderers in a mass picture."

Mashhur is now the author of the movement which calls for a diehard approach and violence and the carrying of arms. But he is shrewd enough to take his time before clashing with the state. But the clash between the Brotherhood and the state does exist and is expected in view of Mashhur's diehard line and his assumption of the reins of responsibility [in the Brotherhood].

[Muqlid] You have written a great deal about the Brotherhood's involvement in arms trading on the international level. What information do you have in this regard?

['Ashmawi] The talk on this subject is fraught with a great deal of danger. Besides, whatever I say, I cannot be precise. However, as the Brotherhood wants to send arms to Afghanistan, one cannot but ask, where did they get these arms? Naturally, they have to buy them on the world arms market. I have written and said this sort of thing. The Brotherhood has no alternative but to buy arms through some state or from the market. When I was in the leadership of the [special] organization in 1965, I traveled to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to meet with a member of the Brotherhood there with a view to purchasing arms and sending them to the Brotherhood in Egypt. The member of the Brotherhood there actually did purchase the arms. But the then prevailing conditions prevented the entry of the arms into Egypt and so they were stored in Sudan.

All indications clearly point to the relationship between the Brotherhood and the international arms trade, and the incident I have related confirm this relationship. The arms which we could not bring into Egypt were stored on the island of Aba [Sudan] and were later used against President Ja'far al-Numayri in a battle that was called the battle of the island of Aba, by the Brotherhood in Sudan. The Brotherhood had intended to use these weapons in Egypt to implement their plans to topple the regime and create disturbances in the country at the time.

[Muqlid] What is the story behind the money-laundering which you have repeatedly said the Brotherhood was involved in?

['Ashmawi] As is known, the aim of the establishment of the Bank of Credit and Commerce [International] was to finance the war in Afghanistan. This bank was indirectly set up by U.S. intelligence and was dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood as evident from the fact that the bank's role ended with the end of the war in Afghanistan. The role played by the Bank of Credit and Commerce in the laundering of money is well known.

[Muqlid] But the published information indicates that the major part of the bank's ownership belonged to governmental institutions.

['Ashmawi] As you are aware, one of the methods used by intelligence organizations is to send their agents to the rulers to persuade them to set up economic systems with the ostensible aim of making a profit while the actual aims are kept secret by these institutions.

[Muqlid] Do you have any detailed information about the universal organization [al-Tanzim al-Khass] of the Brotherhood?

['Ashmawi] Hamid Abu-al-Nasr, general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, affirmed during an interview that the Brotherhood has a universal organization. Mustafa Mashhur has not denied this either. But he replied in his own way to a question about the universal organization, saying that there is no organization but rather people everywhere.

The universal organization has a command abroad and another command in Egypt. The Brotherhood has become an established fact in Sudan, Yemen, Oman, Algeria, and Tunisia. But the mistakes they have been committing affect their positions. They have committed grave political mistakes, particularly the mistake they committed during the Gulf War and their taking of a position against Kuwait.

How can this Brotherhood, which lacks justice and loyalty within its own ranks, rule a country?

[Muqlid] In your capacity as one of the Brotherhood leaders with wide experience, do you believe that the Brotherhood has contacts with world intelligence organizations?

['Ashmawi] I was one of those who said this sort of thing and that the Brotherhood has close contacts with world intelligence organizations.

[Muqlid] Is there any connection between al-Turabi in Sudan and the Brotherhood in Egypt?

['Ashmawi] Certainly, because al-Turabi was all his life a member of the Brotherhood and was its guide in Sudan. What has changed was actually only his outlook. He wants to be leader of the entire Islamic world, and has recently begun temporarily to refuse to heed the guidelines of the Brotherhood in Egypt out of his desire to become the Brotherhood's general guide. But when he called for the convocation of a large Islamic conference in Khartoum, Mashhur traveled there to attend it.

[Muqlid] Is the Brotherhood as strong as some imagine it to be?

['Ashmawi] Yes. The government in Egypt must not take them lightly. Their strength lies in their great numbers, their precise organization, and the financial resources open to them.

[Muqlid] Do you think the Brotherhood headquarters in Egypt should be closed and measures be taken against the general guide himself?

['Ashmawi] The Brotherhood is supposed to have no headquarters. But I support the idea that the Brotherhood should have a headquarters so that it would not operate underground.

[Muqlid] Your conflicts with the Brotherhood have a history. Would you like to relate it to us?

['Ashmawi] I differed with them over some mistakes which led to our imprisonment in 1965. I was surprised to see that just because I had raised this secondary matter, I received a violent reply, and was boycotted and was made to separate from my wife after having been described as an infidel and a hypocrite. They brought my wife to the prison. She was the sister of one of the Brotherhood members. She asked me for a divorce while I was in prison and so I divorced her saying that that was her luck. But what surprised me, however, was that she married my cellmate following the passage of the necessary period for the divorce. They have destroyed my life since my quarrel with them. I began to attack them only about a year ago.

EDPP Changes Leader, To Publish Newspaper

NC1109152995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1345 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Sep (MENA)—Muhammad Sa'd Hasaballah has assumed the leadership of the Egyptian Democratic People's Party [EDPP]. He replaces Mr. Anwar 'Afifi, secretary of the founders and the former party leader.

Mr. Muhammad Sa'd stated in a news conference today that he was elected party leader at the general assembly meeting on 15 August. He said his party will soon publish a newspaper and run in the next People's Assembly elections in eight governorates with 200 nominees.

Committee in Defense of POW's Rights Formed

NC1109204095 Cairo AL-AHRAM WEEKLY in English 7-13 Sep 95 p 2

[Report by Rana 'Allam]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Under the slogan, "We shall not forgive... nor forget," 89 prominent Egyptian professors, legal and military experts, journalists and human rights activists issued a statement this week announcing the establishment of The National Committee to Defend the Rights of Egyptian POWs and declaring that they will intensify their efforts to highlight the case of Egyptian POWs murdered by Israel during the 1956 and 1967 wars, and bring those responsible to justice.

The committee includes such prominent figures as former defence minister Amin Huwaydi, historian Yunan Labib Rizq, MP [Member of Parliament] El-Badri Farghali, al-Tajammu' [National Progressive Unionist Grouping], Secretary-General and Shura Council member Rif'at al-Sa'id, sociologist Sa'd-al-Din Ibrahim, head of the Doctors' Syndicate, Hamdi El-Sayed and former head of the Press Syndicate, Husayn Fahmi. The committee was formed in support of an initiative by the Legal Research and Resource Centre for Human Rights calling for the trial of "Israeli war criminals," in Sinai, in special sessions along the lines of the Nuremberg trials after the Second World War.

"This court should be called the Sinai International Court for Trying Israeli War Criminals. This is our right, for the sake of the families of the martyrs, their sons and daughters and their parents," the National Committee on POWs declared in a statement following a preparatory meeting at the Human Rights Research Centre on Saturday.

While participants were united in their search for justice, the meeting reflected different views on ways of tackling the issue.

There was debate on whether contact should be established with Israeli human rights groups, and on the context in which the case should be presented in the international arena.

The head of the Legal Research Centre, Amir Salim, and other speakers, made it clear that the committee's aim was not to clash with the government. Salim said the issue of the POWs "should be a matter of consensus within a generally divided public opinion". The case of the Egyptian POWs was a national issue, he stressed, adding that invitations had been extended to government officials to take part in the committee's activities. However, no officials were present at the meeting.

'Abd-al-Halim Muhammad, an expert in Israeli studies at the Al- Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, also urged coordination rather than confrontation with the government "to maintain a posture of unity before the rest of the world".

Hazim Jum'ah, international law professor at al-Zaqaziq University, suggested seeking the help of American and British lawyers to sue the Israeli government on Egypt's behalf to seek compensation for the families of POWs. Participants also emphasised the importance of coordination rather than competition between local human rights groups.

It was agreed to form three separate committees to further the group's cause: an international legal committee responsible for contacting the International Red Cross and urging the United Nations to convene a meeting of the Security Council on the issue; a national legal committee to work on pressing the state to take all the necessary measures on the international level, gather testimonies from the families of POWs, the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and lobby parliament to convene a special hearing on the issue; and finally a committee of artists and writers who will highlight the case through their work.

"We call upon Egyptians and all institutions of civil society to consider this a sacred battle in which we can all fight for the sake of our future generations," the statement said. "This case must not be forgotten."

Japanese Prime Minister Comments on Ties

NC1009172795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tokyo, 10 September (MENA)— Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has stressed that Egyptian-Japanese relations in all spheres are very strong. He noted that President Husni Mubarak's visit to Japan in March laid a strong foundation for future relations. He expressed pleasure that the bonds between the two countries have been strengthened in the political, economic, and cultural domains. Murayama gave an exclusive statement to a MENA deputy chief editor prior to his forthcoming visit to Egypt and a number of Middle Eastern countries. Murayama said that he trusts both countries' ability to broaden common understanding and enhance their friendly relations through intensive dialogue on all levels and by increasing contacts between the two countries.

In response to a question on Japan's participation in building an overpass linking the two banks of the Suez Canal, Murayama said that he considers it to be a symbol of the strong and permanent ties between the two countries. He said that he and President Mubarak agree that this overpass will symbolize a new Middle East and ensure free movement of individuals, resources, and information among all regional countries.

Asked his views on ways of promoting the peace process in the Middle East, Murayama pointed out that his country stated in September 1993 that it would increase its aid to the Palestinians in the following two years to $200 million. He noted that so far Japan has offered $150 million to the Palestinian Authority [PA] to cover the administrative costs of self-rule and to create projects to provide job opportunities and to consolidate social stability. He said that Japan is currently conducting a thorough survey of the possibilities for encouraging the flow of private capital to the Palestinian territories. He said that the Japanese Government will continue to participate in the dialogue with the parties concerned with the peace process in the region and will continue its role within the framework of the multinational negotiations. He emphasized that his country will try to boost the peace process by continuing its aid to the Palestinians and the countries neighboring Israel.

Asked about Japan's prospective role in the international arena after its apology in August for its acts during World War II, Murayama said: I offered a profound apology for the suffering and devastation that Japan caused to many peoples during its colonial and aggressive rule. He said that Japan now looks forward to strengthening international coordination in its capacity as a responsible member of the international community and takes part in enhancing the principles of peace and democracy. He said that Japan is the only country that has suffered from the disaster of nuclear war and that it actively seeks to promote total disarmament and nuclear nonproliferation.

On the political developments in Japan, Murayama said that he intends to form a new party before the end of this year and will dissolve the existing party after forming the new one. It should be recalled that Murayama will begin his tour of the Middle East on Tuesday [12 September] and will visit Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Israel, the PA areas, and Jordan.

Philippines Minister, al-Alfi Discuss Cooperation

NC1009190195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—At noon today Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi and Philippines Interior Minister Rafael Alunan, vice chairman of the International Congress on the Prevention of Crime, who is currently visiting Cairo, discussed various aspects of bilateral cooperation and ways to bolster their cooperation and coordination in combating crimes of violence, organized crime, and drug smuggling.

The two ministers also discussed cooperating by exchanging information and coordinating in confronting the phenomenon of international terrorism, as well as in tracking down and arresting all elements of terrorism and extremism.

Al-Alfi stressed that the Egyptian police welcome a chance to offer all their expertise to the Philippines police within the framework of the strong friendship relations linking the two peoples.

Mr. Alunan arrived in Cairo yesterday at the head of a security delegation to discuss possibilities for cooperation between Egypt and the Philippines in the various security fields.

Libya

'Split' Seen Between al-Qadhdhafi and Jallud

MM1109114695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Sawsan Abu-Husayn and 'Ali Anuzla: "Reports Of Escalating Disagreements Between al-Qadhdhafi and Jallud; Libya Announces 600,000 Infiltrators Have Been Gathered in Four Camps"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, Rabat — Libyan Interior Minister Muhammad Hijazi has denied that security authorities in his country have launched an arrest campaign against fundamentalists. He stressed that what has been reported in this connection "is absolutely baseless." Hijazi told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Cairo from Tripoli that "Libyan security authorities have set up four camps in Tripoli, Sabha, Banghazi, and Surt to gather African infiltrators and those residing illegally in Libya in preparation for their deportation."

He said that, based on the measures taken by security authorities so far, the number of African infiltrators in Libya totals some 600,000, with not a single Egyptian among them.

The Libyan minister did not name the states to which the infiltrators belong. He just said that they belong to a large number of Arab states. He confirmed the presence of some Sudanese among them.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the day before yesterday Libya deported 50,000 Sudanese, who were moved to the border, but the Sudanese authorities refused to receive them. They were left at the border for interrogation to ascertain their Sudanese identity, especially as they have no passports.

At another level, the Libyan interior minister confirmed to AL- SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Libya intends to send a high-ranking official to Cairo within 48 hours in a new bid to solve security problems between Egypt and Sudan vis-a-vis the three defendants who fled Ethiopia for Sudan. However, he declined to specify whether he or Unity Minister Jum'ah al-Fazzani will visit Cairo. He had stated that he would visit Egypt soon.

On security coordination between Egypt and Libya and his meeting with Egyptian Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi, the Libyan minister said that "cooperation between the two countries has reached an excellent phase in all spheres. Libya sent some technical officials to prepare for a meeting of the joint higher committee between the two countries, which is expected to convene soon in Tripoli to follow up what was agreed in its Cairo meeting in implementation of the instructions of the two countries' leaderships."

Meanwhile, an Arab diplomatic source has revealed the existence of real disagreements between Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, who is No. 2 in the regime. The source said that 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud is currently secluding himself in his home and has turned down several mediation efforts made by close figures to mend the rift between them. Other sources had said that these reports were untrue, but some people have confirmed them.

The Arab source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the disagreements revolve round the way the country is run. 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud is blaming al-Qadhdhafi for the failure of numerous industrial and agricultural projects in Libya. Al-Qadhdhafi believes that his words and instructions should be implemented precisely, and through people selected by him personally and whom he trusts.

According to the source, the disagreements between the two men began three years ago, but they have now deepened and reached the point of boycott.

The dispute between al-Qadhdhafi and Jallud is attributable mainly to the way the Lockerbie case was handled. Jallud believes that al-Qadhdhafi pursued a method of leniency and flexibility in his dealings with UN establishments and the three states concerned with the crisis, namely the United States, Britain, and France, saying that this method nearly led to the Libyan suspects' being handed over — to which Jallud is strongly opposed.

The source stressed that 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud is refusing to return to power despite the mediations conducted by al-Qadhdhafi's comrades. And that he has set several conditions for returning to exercise his political activities. They include that al-Qadhdhafi should refrain from direct interference in running the country's organs, and that the People's Congresses should be given the full freedom to exercise real powers.

Jallud is also demanding that the people be given the freedom to exercise their absolute and real powers without falsifying their will. The source pointed out that in view of the split in relations between the two strongest men in the Libyan regime, al-Qadhdhafi has started to revive the spirit of tribalism in Libyan society, flirting with Libyan tribes in the eastern region. In this context al-Qadhdhafi called for a conference of Arab tribes in Tripoli. He also held a meeting of Arab revolutionary parties at leadership level. These are the two pillars left for al-Qadhdhafi to recover his declining power in the country and to appear a strong man in the face of the Western onslaught launched against him from abroad.

Furthermore, the Arab source disclosed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Col. Abu-Bakr Yunus Jabir, who is also a member of the Revolution Command and holds the post of Army commander, has submitted his resignation from his post on the grounds of illness and inability to continue military work, but al-Qadhdhafi rejected the resignation. The source adds that Col. Yunus too is discontent at the fact that al-Qadhdhafi has recently reduced his responsibilities in the Libyan Armed Forces after fragmenting the regular Army and turning it into a people's army.

The source said that Maj. al-Khuwaylidi continues to perform his work in his office in his normal capacity, even though there are rumors that he too has submitted his resignation to Col. al- Qadhdhafi.

According to the source, al-Khuwaylidi cannot submit his resignation in view of the close relationship between him and al- Qadhdhafi. Besides, he has limited ambitions. As for Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi, inspector general of the Armed Forces, there have been rumors about his absence and disappearance. The source added that there is one strong man ruling Libya, that is al-Qadhdhafi, who controls the entire regime from his tent.

'Abd-al-Salam Jallud did not — for the second successive year — attend the celebrations marking the 26th anniversary of the 1 September revolution. Over the past two years Jallud has appeared on a few normal occasions like wedding parties.

Police Target African Nationals for Expulsion

NC1109122095 Paris AFP in English
1115 GMT 11 Sep 95

[Report by Sammy Ketz]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] al-Sallum, Egypt, Sept 11 (AFP)—Libya is targeting illegal African workers, herding them into large deportation camps after forcing thousands of Egyptians to flee the country, Egyptian travellers said here Monday [11 September].

"The exodus in the past day in al-Sallum of thousands of Egyptians who had no work contracts as well as hundreds of Palestinians was almost over Monday," a border guard at al-Sallum told AFP, asking to remain anonymous.

"Today, a few hundred Egyptians crossed the border, which is the normal pace," he said.

Several travellers told AFP that "almost all the Egyptians" whose papers were not in order had been expelled from the area of Surt up to the northeastern town of Bangahzi on the Mediterranean.

Some 7,000 illegal Egyptian workers have fled Libya over the past few days, joining 3,000 who were expelled in August.

Now the Libyan police was reported to be hunting down other African nationals.

"They have collected together in camps African nationals, mainly Sudanese, ready to repatriate them," an Egyptian traveller said.

A Libyan diplomat in Cairo told AFP that authorities in his country "were continuing to arrest and regroup in camps African and Sudanese nationals whose papers are not in order."

Libyan Interior Minister Mahmud al-Hijazi said Sunday that four camps had been set up "to gather together African infiltrators living illegally in Libya to prepare for their expulsion." Some 600,000 people had been detained, he said.

Press spokesman at the Sudanese embassy in Cairo, Sulayman 'Abd- al-Tawwab, told AFP on Monday that the "Sudanese nationals coming from Libya have been returning en masse to Sudan for the past five days." But he gave no figures.

The measure would also "help security in Egypt. Libya will never let extremist elements infiltrate into Egypt across its territory," a Libyan diplomat said.

Egypt has accused Sudan of being behind a failed attack on President Husni Mubarak on June 26 in Addis Ababa.

The Libyan diplomat said that expulsions had been introduced after the attack and "in coordination with the Egyptian authorities."

"The Egyptian nationals, even those who are illegal, have not been pestered by the authorities. There are still Egyptian traders selling in the streets who don't have a work contract," he said.

Tripoli has stepped up the expulsion of Arab and African foreign workers since troubles erupted in Banghazi on Wednesday in which 20 Islamic militants and 10 police were reported to have died. Libya has denied any unrest took place.

About 900,000 Egyptians work in Libya along with 500,000 Chadians, and numerous Sudanese, Somalis, Moroccans and Nigerians.

Meanwhile, 11 Palestinian families expelled from Libya have spent six days camped at the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing into the Gaza Strip, relatives said.

They have visitor's permits issued by Israel to enter the Strip, but the Jewish authorities fear they will stay permanently after being thrown out by Libya and have refused them entry, they added.

Banghazi Islamists Said Trained in Sudan, Algeria

MM0809111695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
8 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy: "Scores of Victims in Banghazi Following Clashes With Islamists"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, London, AL-HAYAH — The Libyan city of Banghazi has in the past 48 hours experienced serious incidents, as armed clashes broke out between Libyan security forces and Islamists. According to informed sources, these clashes have led to the death of some 50 Islamists and the wounding and killing of scores of policemen.

The sources said that Libyan authorities were surprised by the scale of the incidents and the clashes that continued yesterday. The sources said that the incidents began when the police stormed [the hideout of] a small group of Islamists in the city, whereupon the group opened fire and the fighting extended to various areas of Banghazi.

The sources cited elements close to Libyan authorities as saying that there are some 250 armed Islamists in Banghazi and that the authorities are determined to finish off what is left of them.

The sources pointed out that the gunmen are well trained and that they received their training in Sudan and Algeria.

A Libyan diplomatic source in Libya said yesterday that "clashes took place between Libyan security forces and a number of Libyan fundamentalists in areas near the Libyan borders with Egypt and Sudan." The source played down the seriousness of conditions inside Libyan territory, pointing out that "the security forces managed to bring the situation under control after arresting a number of infiltrators and killing some others."

The source said in a statement to AL-HAYAH that Libyan security organs had "obtained information to the effect that a number of Libyan extremists who received training in Afghanistan infiltrated into Libyan territory after the Egyptian and Algerian security organs succeeded in dealing blows to fundamentalists in the two countries. They were watched closely to foil their schemes."

The source pointed out that security forces "yesterday stormed a den used by these groups, arresting many of them and killing some in clashes that the extremists started when they realized the security forces were approaching."

The source pointed out that "security forces have adopted tight security measures on the borders with Egypt and Sudan and conducted thorough search operations in the Libyan cities situated near the borders with both countries, checking identification papers of all those living in these cities."

The source said that the troubles that occurred in Banghazi about two months ago were the result of infiltration by groups of Libyan extremists who had received their training in Afghanistan. They had planned to carry out subversive operations, but the authorities managed to foil their scheme.

The source stressed that the "Libyan authorities are cooperating closely with security organs in Egypt and Algeria with a view to striking at terrorism and bringing it under control." [passage omitted]

U.S., Israeli Actions in Arab Region Criticized

LD0909133195 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1140 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The United States is working in alliance with the Israeli enemy to subjugate the Arab homeland into economic dependence on it and to gain control of its economic and political resources. After getting some capitulationist Arab sides and making them sign agreements of capitulation and normalization of relations with the Israeli enemy — according to the conspiracy which was hatched against the present and the future of the Arab nation at the Madrid Conference in October 1991, after stationing its forces and warships in the Arabian Gulf region in order to command the huge economic resources there and control them completely, and after making some Arab sides also sign numerous capitulationist economic agreements — at the forefront of which is the project for the so-called Middle East market which was announced at the economic conference in Morocco in November last year, the United States has begun to reveal its military and economic plans openly and blatantly.

At a time when huge numbers of U.S. forces and warships continue to arrive in the Arabian Gulf region, press reports quoting U.S. diplomatic sources say that the U.S. Government has summoned to Washington five of its ambassadors to Arab countries in addition to its ambassador to the enemy, Israel, to undertake a tour of U.S. cities under the auspices of the U.S. Tra Department and the U.S. Business Council with the aim of finding trade opportunities for U.S. companies in the Arab region.

The tour will be interspersed with forums at which these ambassadors will talk about the latest information and assessments about the political and economic climate in the areas where they work. They will deal particularly with the fields of energy, oil, petrochemicals, arms sales, airports, refineries, electricity generating stations, housing, water plants, and other projects by means of which the United States is planning to interfere in the economy of the Arab homeland, gain control of it, and impose a state of backwardness and dependency on Arab countries, making them a market for U.S. products and those of the Israeli enemy and bringing down any joint Arab economic project aimed at attaining self-sufficiency and economic independence for Arab countries.

The U.S. and Israeli challenge to the Arab nation is a dangerous one and is moving on all political, economic, and military levels through the various possible ways and means likely to deprive the Arab nation of its fundamental capabilities and gradually subjugate it to joint U.S.-Israeli military and economic hegemony. This is particularly so in the prevailing circumstances which the Arab nation is experiencing and under which some capitulationist Arab sides have given the United States and Israel a golden opportunity to penetrate the Arab region; to fetter some parties with documents of oppression, submission, and capitulation; and to impose yet more problems and crises upon the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Morocco

Parties Urge Vote for Constitutional Amendment

LD1109142495 Rabat MAP in English
1335 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Marrakech, Sep 11 (MAP) — Practically all Moroccan parties, whether from the right or from the left, have called their militants to vote for the constitutional amendment announced by King Hassan II last August 20.

The amendment, under which the appropriation bill will be discussed and voted in the April session of the parliament instead of that of October, will be voted in a referendum to be held this September 15. The amendment will enable to take into account, when drafting the budget, the returns of the agriculture campaign. Agriculture accounts for 15 pc of the Moroccan GDP and employs 40 pc of manpower.

The Moroccan parties forming 'the national entente', namely the Constitutional Union, the Popular Movement and the National Democratic Party, have thus expressed backing to the amendment and called their militants to participate in the referendum.

The representatives of the three parties underlined, at a meeting held lately in Marrakech, the significance of the amendment of Article 49 of the Constitution. The amendment is not at all a technical one. It is rather a radical reform that touches the daily life of all the Moroccan citizens, they said.

For its p[illegible] the Socialist Union of Popular Forces (USFP/opposition) called during a meeting of its central committee held over the weekend for voting for the amendment.

Two other opposition parties, namely the Istiqlal party (PI- nationalist) and the Party for Progress and Socialism (PPS-former communist) also voiced support to the constitutional amendment.

The Istiqlal Party, the National Rally of Independents (RNI- center) and the National Popular Movement held a joint rally over the weekend in Smara, southern Morocco, to mobilize the citizens for the projected referendum.

Japanese Loan To Fund Irrigation Projects

LD0809113095 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 5 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Morocco and Japan have excellent cooperation relations on more than one level. In the framework of the continuation of this cooperation, a new agreement was signed 5 September at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It will give a new impetus to bilateral relations, especially in one of the vital fields, namely irrigated farming.

The agreement was signed by Taieb Fassi Fehri, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, and the Japanese Ambassador to Morocco Nishimura Motohiko.

Japan is to grant Morocco a loan of 40.584 million dirhams which will be earmarked for supplying the Ouerrha Basin region in northeast Morocco with equipment and special machines for building a group of small dams.

[Begin Motohiko recording, in French fading into Arabic translation] This project has been studied by Morocco and Japan for a few years. The agreement signed today is the culmination of the research and studies which were carried out. On the whole, the agreement will make it possible to buy equipment for building about 24 small dams in the Ouerrha Basin region.

This project has great implications in the way that it is going to improve the living standards of communities in an area located in the deep confines of the Moroccan Kingdom. This is another level of cooperation between Morocco and Japan. [end recording]

The signing of the agreement comes in the framework of the implementation of the first phase of the development of the irrigated farming project in the Ouerrha Basin region.

Sudan

Incidents at University Said Increasing in Intensity

NC1109151095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1355 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 11 Sep (MENA)— Current incidents at Khartoum University have increased in intensity. About 3,000 students demonstrated a short while ago outside the University in the market place in the heart of the Sudanese capital. Other people also joined the demonstrating students in repeating chants against the Sudanese Government and Dr. Hasan al-Turabi.

The Sudanese security forces fired tear gas at the demonstrators who joined the students in huge numbers. Eight people fainted and 10 to 15 citizens and students were injured as a result of the clashes. They were all taken to the hospital.

The demonstrators also chanted "O October will come back" in reference to Sudan's valiant popular revolution in October 1964 which toppled the 'Abbud regime.

Live Ammunition Said Used

NC1109163795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1618 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum, 11 Sep (MENA)—Sudanese student sources have pointed out that the Sudanese security forces used live ammunition to disperse the demonstrations in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, this afternoon. Students from Sudan University, al-Naylayn University, the former branch of Cairo University in Khartoum, Juba University, and Khartoum University have taken part in the demonstrations.

The same sources added that the demonstrators smashed several cars parked in front of al-Tadamun Tower, the windows of the Real Estate Bank, and the Commercial bank. The Sudanese security forces were forced to use live ammunition to disperse the demonstrators after tear gas grenades had failed to do so.

According to eyewitnesses, at least one demonstrator was wounded by live ammunition near al-Barakah Tower. [passage omitted]

Four Students Reportedly Injured

AB1109190195 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 11 Sep 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two groups of university students have been at daggers drawn in the Sudanese capital today. On Saturday [9 September] a small but peaceful demonstration was held on campus to demand the release of students detained by the Sudanese authorities last week, but since then things have been tense, and today the troubles built over from the campus into neighboring streets forcing the police to intervene. Mary Harper asked our reporter, Alpha Taban in Khartoum, what happened:

[Begin recording] [Taban] What happened is that students who were opposed to some other students protesting clashed using bricks, iron bars, and other missiles.

[Harper] What were they so angry about?

[Taban] Well, the incident really started last Saturday when a group of about 20 students (?protested) the arrest of three of their colleagues. They said the three were arrested a week ago, and now some students, who were opposed to this protest, then came out and attacked the protesting students.

[Harper] And were people hurt in this clash?

[Taban] Yes, there were reports of about four students who were wounded.

[Harper] And did the security forces intervene to try to calm them down?

[Taban] Yes, the security forces intervened. The riot police came in. They used tear gas to disperse the students.

[Harper] Did you manage to get into the university yourself to see what was happening?

[Taban] I tried to get to the university but I could not because plain-clothed security men had cordoned off the university preventing anybody from entering.

[Harper] And was this violence confined to the university or did it it spread outside as well?

[Taban] Oh, yes. It did spread outside. To begin with, a group of students from the Sudan University for Science and Technology joined the other students at the University of Khartoum, and eventually, they came out of the university into the main streets of Khartoum, into the center of the town. They destroyed many cars, smashed the windscreens of several cars in the center of the town.

[Harper] And why was it that some of the students took such offense at the small student protest that happened on Saturday?

[Taban] Well, the problem with the politics at the university is that many students are supporters of the government, while many are also opposed to it. So the students who support the government took offense at the protest of the 20 students on Saturday.

[Harper] Has the government said anything about this violence?

[Taban] Not at all. It has said absolutely nothing. I mean, even the earlier protest, the government issued absolutely no statement.

[Harper] It seems that these students' protests are becoming a bit of a fixture in Khartoum. You had a very big one in July.

[Taban] Oh, yes. Well, it has to be remembered that Khartoum University, which is the oldest and the most prestigious institution of high learning in Sudan, has been the hotbed of opposition to successive governments in Sudan, so there are often protests from here and there, although these last in the last few days had been a bit more open. [end recording]

'Communists, Foreigners' Blamed

EA1209095395 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in arabic 0430 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A security source has announced that student elements belonging to the defunct communist party studying in universities and colleges of higher education yesterday rioted in the national capital, destroying property in some areas. A number of vehicles and motorcycles were damaged and some business premises were slightly damaged. The students also assaulted commuters who were travelling by public transport in order to force them to participate in the destructive riots.

The source said elements of the defunct communist party had in recent days begun to mobilize, thereby exploiting the relaxed political atmosphere following the release of political detainees. The communists had held meetings in a number of places, and in one such meeting, on 2 September 1995, at al-Thawra in Omdurman, a group was arrested.

These meetings and provocations were linked to the aims of the Asmara conference convened by the opposition which recommended that sabotage activities be carried out in the country.

The security source added that all available evidence and information pointed to the involvement of known foreign quarters in encouraging the saboteurs. The source condemned the destruction of public property belonging to innocent citizens perpetrated by elements of the defunct communist party.

In concluding his statement, the security source said the situation has been contained thanks to cooperation and total coordination between the various security bodies. He said these bodies were vigilant in their mission to protect the lives of citizens, their property and the country's stability.

Traffic Halted in Khartoum; Bridge Closed

NC1109161995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1540 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 11 Sep (MENA)—Traffic in the Sudanese capital, Khartoum, stopped completely today. The capital was totally isolated from other cities after the Sudanese security authorities closed off the bridge linking Khartoum to Omdurman and arrested large numbers of Sudanese citizens.

The citizens who left their offices after they finished work were forced to walk long distances, sometimes a distance of 10 km, to get home to Omdurman. Tear gas grenades continue to be thrown at the crowds of Sudanese citizens who now walk aimlessly around the capital, Khartoum.

The demonstrators burned down the headquarters of the student support fund near the Islamic Faysal Bank in Khartoum. In addition, four motorcycles and a number of cars were set on fire.

The process of arresting citizens through the use of security cars has become a normal occurrence in the streets of Khartoum. These cars are filled up with those who are arrested and return later to carry off more people.

Heavy Fighting Reported in Upper Nile State

EA1109212995 Nairobi KTN Television Network
in English 1800 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The South Sudan Independence Movement [SSIM] claims that there is heavy fighting in Ayod area [Upper Nile State] following attacks by [the] Sudan People's Liberation Army [SPLA]. SSIM says the attacks began last Friday [8 September] by forces from Kongor led by William Nyuon Bany and Commander Bior. According to spokesman David de Chand of the SSIM, another SPLA force is poised to attack Yuai [Upper Nile State] today.

The SSIM says it condemns the attack and holds General John Garang, leader of the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement], responsible for the consequences that may follow. The SSIM has alerted the international community on the attacks, giving a reminder that the SPLA revived armed attacks since the Ganyliel massacre of 30 July this year.

President Taking Steps for 'Political Breakthrough'

MM1209075695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
11 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Nizar Daw-al-Na'im: "Sudan: Al-Bashir Preparing For New Measures Against al-Turabi Front"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Several Sudanese political sources have spoken of the Sudanese political circles' belief that new steps will be taken by President 'Umar al-Bashir to reinforce decisions made by him to achieve a political breakthrough in the country. Under these decisions he has removed leading figures belonging to the National Islamic Front from sensitive positions in the state. He also sought to assure foreign circles vis-a-vis the accusation that Khartoum is sheltering terrorists.

The sources told AL-HAYAH that decisions are likely to be issued in the same direction to include dismissing other leading figures who belong to the hard-line wing of the front, replacing them with political cadres from among supporters of former President Ja'far Numayri and partisan elements who have agreed to deal with the government. The first step has been to replace the front's leaders with military officials. These decisions are aimed at stressing the new line seeking to "clip the wings" of the front's leaders in the regime.

The sources spoke of reports to the effect that al-Bashir might request that the headquarters of the Arab Islamic People's Congress, headed by Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, be moved from Sudan. It is believed that such a step would effectively mean the congress' disbandment, because no other state would agree to host it, given the states' refusal to open external bureaus for the congress.

Several sources, contacted by AL-HAYAH, believe that the situation in the wake of the state of relaxation that followed the release of political prisoners and detainees over the past two weeks "is now open to all options." The sources added that the statements being made in political circles in Khartoum reflect the mystery in which the situation is shrouded. The sources pointed to a number of rumors and speculations about an imminent confrontation between the hard-line and moderate wings of the regime.

Political circles in Khartoum are currently concerned because of the ambiguity in the internal political situation. The sources pointed out that the early political openness decisions issued by al-Bashir were met with the utmost caution by oppositionists and international parties on the grounds that they could be a new plan for camouflage, similar to the one the organization adopted following the June 1989 coup.

The sources said that the moderate wing in the regime also sought to make contacts with opposition leaders inside and outside the country, but it met with great reservations, because the opposition parties wishing to engage in a dialogue need some time to know the nature of the shift taking place in the regime. The sources also noted the way in which al-Bashir spoke to the new U.S. ambassador, Timothy Carney, when the latter presented his credentials. He stressed that Sudan "is seeking to emerge to the world with a new face purged of the defects of subservience."

Al-Bashir also stressed that his government is seeking to eliminate the causes of tension between the two countries and to surmount the obstacles obstructing an improvement in relations. What further complicates the internal situation and increases the ambiguity is the fact that everyone is waiting to see what Egypt is going to do in response to the open Ethiopian accusation that Khartoum is sheltering Egyptian terrorists who participated in planning the attempt on President Husni Mubarak.

Statement Casts Doubt on Relations With Libya

EA0809115295 (Clandestine) Voice of Sudan Voice of the National Democratic Alliance in Arabic 1400 GMT 7 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In a statement, the foreign affairs coordinator in the revolutionary congress and official spokesman, Mr. Musa Hamudah, has said that relations between Sudan and Libya are not as some would like to imagine. He pointed out that since the Turabi regime, in Sudan, expelled Libyan Ambassador Ramadan Bashir last year and declared him persona non grata because of his attack on extremism and extremists at Ahliyyah University faculty in Omdurman, the Jamahiriyah has not appointed an ambassador to Khartoum up to now.

He stressed that the stand of the Jamahiriyah is reflected in what the leader of the revolution, brother Colonel Muammar al- Qadhdhafi, said, namely, that he supports the choice of the people of Sudan and that he has no relations with the Sudanese state given that he is the leader of the revolution of the masses.

This means that relations between the two countries are not as some would like to imagine.

Minister Reviews Plans for Returnees

EA0809194795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brigadier (retired) Salah al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, minister of the presidency of the Council of Ministers, acquainted himself with plans for transporting Sudanese returning from the Libyan Jamahiriyah when he met the chairman and members of the committee entrusted with supervising the returnees from Libya in his office, at the general secretariat of the Council of Ministers, yesterday, in the presence of Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Ahmad Hamzah, minister of state at the Finance Ministry.

The meeting reviewed the plan drawn up by the committee, which included carrying out an initial survey and gathering information about the returnees and the places where they worked in Libya, and where they lived in Sudan, in a form prepared for this purpose. [passage omitted]

The minister of the presidency of the Council of Ministers agreed to the plan and gave a directive for coordination and cooperation with the Sudanese Embassy in Libya and the general secretariat for Libyan-Sudanese integration in the plan's implementation. His excellency also directed the chairman of the committee to travel to Libya to evaluate the situation in preparation for starting the transportation of the returnees.

Envoy Reacts to Egyptian Accusations

*NC1109185595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1825 GMT 11 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Addis Ababa, 11 Sep (MENA)—Major General 'Uthman al-Sayyid, Sudanese ambassador in Addis Ababa, has claimed that the Ethiopian Government's request for the extradition of the three terrorists who took part in the attack on President Mubarak's motorcade in June came 32 days after the incident. The ambassador claimed that his country had handled the matter seriously.

Speaking before a meeting of the Conflict Resolution Mechanism this evening, Ambassador al-Sayyid stated that one terrorist had actually entered Sudan but his whereabouts are not known. He noted that the Sudanese authorities are still searching for him and that, if found, he will be handed over to Ethiopia, in accordance with the extradition treaty signed between the two countries.

The Sudanese ambassador added that his country rejects a discussion of this issue before the meeting of the Conflict Resolution Mechanism. He added: The Sudanese foreign minister should have been invited to attend this meeting. He claimed that Egypt is occupying the Hala'ib region and criticized the Security Council.

Western Sahara

Prime Minister Forms New Government

*LD0709223995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2200 GMT 7 Sep 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Mahfoud Ali Beida, prime minister of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic, has formed a new government, according to a communique from the Saharan Information Ministry issued today. The same communique adds that the new government set-up, which comprises 14 ministers, was put forward yesterday to Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz who gave his agreement to it.

It is to be recalled that the formation of the new Saharan government follows the convenening of the ninth congress of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] 19-28 August.

Kuwait

Official on Arab States' Views on Regional Security

LD1109130495 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0958 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 11 Sep (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today reaffirmed the identical views of Kuwait and the states of the region that he visited recently regarding the means of building the security and stability of the region. In a statement to KUNA made on his return to Kuwait after a two-day tour that took him to Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Iran, Shaykh Sabah said: "Views were identical regarding the basis for security and stability in the region — the necessity of deepening cooperation in order to realize this aim."

Shaykh Sabah said: "In accordance with the good tradition of consultation with GCC leaders on the latest events, as established by the amir of the State of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, I had the honor of conveying messages from him to the heads of the states I visited. The messages concerned the latest regional developments, and the coordination and exchange of views required."

Shaykh Sabah added: "I also had the honor of conveying a message from the amir of the State of Kuwait to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani regarding bilateral relations and their development for the benefit of the two countries and peoples."

The Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister expressed his gratitude "for the friendly feelings toward Kuwait, its amir, government, and people, which was noticed throughout the tour."

Shaykh Sabah expressed his appreciation for the welcome given by the leaders of those countries to Shaykh Jabir's initiative in calling for consultations in this critical period for the region.

Shaykh Sabah, before leaving Tehran for Kuwait, said that his talks with senior Iranian officials were positive and constructive. The talks included a review of regional and international developments, and of the progress of bilateral relations.

Iranian Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati described Shaykh Sabah's visit to Iran as beneficial for the deepening of friendship between the two neighboring countries. He said that during the talks the two sides emphasized their desire to promote bilateral relations.

Shaykh Sabah met with Islamic Consultative Council Speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri before leaving Tehran. They reviewed bilateral relations and regional developments.

Continued UN Sanctions on Iraq Welcomed

LD1009150295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1305 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait — The State of Kuwait today welcomed the United Nations Security Council's decision to renew continued sanctions against the Iraqi regime as long as Iraq does not implement all the UN resolutions relevant to its aggression against Kuwait. This came at a meeting held by the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers under the chairmanship of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al- Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister.

'Abd al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, minister of state for the council of ministers affairs and planning, said in a press statement that the Council has expressed its appreciation for the firm stances taken by the member states of the Security Council and their deep understanding of the nature of the Iraqi regime especially in the light of recent development and indications which reflect that regime's real intentions and prove the lack of credibility of that regime which still constitutes a source of constant threat to the state of Kuwait and the states of the region.

On the other hand al-Dakhil pointed out that the Council of Ministers was acquainted with the letter sent to the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah by the Russian President Boris Yeltsin and which concentrated on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the efforts being made to end this tragic situation. He also pointed out that the Council discussed political issues and in this regard was acquainted with a number of reports relating to political development on Arab and international levels.

Oman

Qabus, Deputy Prime Minister in Car Accident

Sultan Qabus Unhurt

NC1109210695 Paris AFP in English 2047 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Muscat, Sept 11 (AFP) — Omani leader Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id emerged unscathed from a traffic accident on Monday [11 September] when a vehicle hit his parked car, palace officials said.

The accident happened as Sultan Qabus was visiting Salalah, around 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) south of Muscat, a palace statement said.

The sultan stopped his car in a Salalah street to listen to the grievances of a citizen when another vehicle driving at high-speed smashed into it.

Sultan Qabus is "safe and sound and was not hurt" in the accident, the statement said, adding that the other driver had not seen the royal car.

The 55-year-old Omani leader is spending the summer in his native town of Salalah and is not always accompanied by bodyguards when he goes on tours.

Official television interrupted its programmes to announce the news but did not broadcast pictures from the accident.

Deputy Prime Minister Dies

NC1209065795 Paris AFP in English
0650 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Muscat, Sept 12 (AFP)—A senior Omani official died when a vehicle crashed into a car in which both he and the country's leader Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id were travelling, officials said Tuesday [12 September].

Qays Bin-'Abd-al Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, died in Monday's accident in Salalah, around 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) south of Muscat, an Omani official said asking not to be named.

Al-Zawawi, 60, had occupied the post since 1982 after serving as minister of state for foreign affairs between 1973 and 1982.

The sultan's BMW 750 was badly damaged by the all-terrain vehicle which smashed into it, the official said.

The government was expected to release an official statement later. [passage omitted]

Council of Ministers Mourns Death

JN1209082595 Manama WAKH in Arabic
0740 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat, 12 Sep (WAKH)—The Council of Ministers in the Sultanate of Oman mourns Qays Bin-'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, Omani deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, who passed away yesterday.

This was announced by Muscat radio this morning. The Omani Council of Ministers' statement beseeched Almighty God to have mercy on al-Zawawi and to grant patience and solace to his family.

[Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic at 0800 GMT on 12 September adds that al-Zawawi was killed in a road accident on 11 September while accompanying Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.]

Qabus Proposes Regional Army of 100,000 Soldiers

LD0909121195 Tehran IRNA in English
1117 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES DAILY, Yusef bin-Alawi, the Omani state minister for foreign affairs, referred to the proposal of Sultan Qabus for forming an army in the region comprising 100,000 soldiers from the regional countries and said "the subject was studied in 1992, and the army will be formed, but its number is not important."

"What is important is that the regional countries realize the urgency of forming the army. We want to strengthen the regional security through the cooperation of the regional countries," stressed Bin-'Alawi.

On the forthcoming session of Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC) which is to be held in Muscat next week, the official noted that the situation in the Islamic countries, Iraq and Bosnia in particular, would be discussed in the session and "we will do our best to achieve positive results," Bin-'Alawi stressed.

He expressed hope that Iraq would be able to maintain its territorial integrity and "remain a sovereign and integrated states."

Qatar

Government Said Poised To Sell Gas to Israel

MS1209104695 London THE GUARDIAN in English
12 Sep 95 p 12

[Report by Derek Brown: "Qatar Gas May Kill Off Boycott"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem — The tiny but staggeringly rich Gulf state Of Qatar is poised to deal a potentially fatal blow to the 49-year Arab trade boycott Of Israel.

Emir Hamad Bin-Khalifa Al Thani said on television that Qatar was ready to sell part of its huge natural gas reserves to Israel.

He predicted an end to the already shaky boycott as the region moves towards a general peace settlement.

"Of course, Israel wants the boycott to be cancelled by the Arab countries, and I think that the boycott is destined to end, after a solution is reached with Lebanon and Syria," he said.

The emir, who deposed his more conservative father in a bloodless coup in June, said there could not be normal relations with Israel before a comprehensive peace.

But his bald statement that Qatar is ready to sell gas to Israel is a clear indication that it is ready to head the queue of Arab and Islamic countries eager for trade contacts with Israel — and American approval.

The negotiations for a gas deal were first revealed at the start of 1994. The tentative talks were given impetus by Israel's peace deal with Jordan last year.

Now the process has been given a further boost by the decision of the Indian state of Maharashtra to cancel a deal with the U.S. corporation Enron to build a huge gas-burning power station, using fuel shipped from Qatar.

Enron is developing the emirate's North Dome reserve, under the Gulf's waters, one of the world's biggest gas fields.

There was speculation after the Indian deal fell through that Enron would pull out. But it insisted that it would continue development work and the latest comments from Qatar's ruler indicate strongly that the Israeli deal is high on his agenda.

Jordan, which is trying to build its trade links with Israel, is also known to be interested in buying Qatari gas. But the two kingdoms are separated by Saudi Arabia which still supports the Arab boycott.

It is likely, therefore, that the gas will be shipped to Israel and Jordan round the Arabian peninsula, possibly to the Red Sea ports of Eilat and Aqaba, rather than carried by a new pipeline.

The Arab trade boycott started in 1946, two years before the founding of Israel with a ban on the purchase of goods from Jewish residents of what was then British-ruled Palestine.

It was endorsed by the Arab League, which built up formidable controls. Not only was direct trade with Israel prohibited, but also deals with companies and organisations dealing with the Jewish state and their subsidiaries. The boycott was later joined by Islamic countries outside the Middle East, and is said by Israel to have cost it $50,000 million in lost business.

In the late 1970s Egypt reached its own peace with Israel, and the boycott administration was moved from Cairo to Damascus. In the past few years, as Israel has come to terms with the Palestinians and Jordan, the boycott has shriveled further.

United Arab Emirates

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statements

LD0909171995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1428 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Al-'Ayn, 9 Sep (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, arrived here today within the framework of his current tour of a number of the countries in the region, during which he delivers messages from Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, to their leaders.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad carries a written message from the amir of the State of Kuwait to UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, in connection with recent developments in the Gulf arena. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said in a statement to journalists before leaving Doha that during his meeting with Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, he listened to his points of view and presented him with an exposition of the current situation in the region, describing this meeting as good. [passage omitted]

Concerning recent developments in Iraq, the Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister said that the suffering of the Iraqi people was a suffering for the people of Kuwait, because the two peoples were victims of the same circumstances.

He expressed his wishes that the suffering of the Iraqi people would end in order to enable it to join its Arab nation, the United Nations, and the world as a whole, emphasizing that it was left to the Iraqi people to overcome this suffering by themselves.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad denied that he would visit Jordan at the end of his current tour of the region. He said: "It was never on my mind to visit Jordan, and my tour includes Bahrain, Qatar, the UAE, and the Sultanate of Oman, in addition to Iran and Turkey. However, my visit to Turkey has been postponed until next week due to the absence of the Turkish president."

Delivers Kuwaiti Amir's Note

JN0909161095 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1355 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Al-'Ayn, 9 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shayk Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], has received a message from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah on bilateral relations, ways to strengthen them in all fields, the latest developments in the region, and the most important Arab and international issues. The message comes within the framework of the continuous consultation and coordination among the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council to reinforce the march of the Council for the interest of its people. The message also deals with issues of common concern.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, conveyed the message to His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, Abu Dhabi heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the UAE Armed Forces, during a meeting today. Shaykh Sabah and Shaykh Khalifah reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on the regional, Arab, and international issues.

Yemen

King Fahd, Prince Sultan Phone Salih in U.S.

JN0909145895 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received at his place of residence in Rochester in the United States, a telephone call from his brother Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. King Fahd inquired about the brother president's health and the results of the medical checkups he is undergoing in Mayo Clinic. The two leaders also discussed many issues related to fraternal bilateral relations.

The brother president thanked his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques for his concern, wishing him good health and continuous happiness and wishing the fraternal Saudi people continuous progress and prosperity.

The brother president also received today a telephone call from his brother His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation in sisterly Saudi Arabia, to inquire about the brother president's health and the results of medical checkups. Prince Sultan wished the president good health and happiness.

The brother president thanked his brother Prince Sultan, wishing him continuous happiness.

Fahd's Son Visits Salih in U.S. Clinic

NC1109210295 London MBC Television in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Sep 95

[Report by MBC correspondent in Washington 'Aziz Fahmi — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Fahmi] Upon instructions from the custodian of the two holy mosques, Prince Faysal Bin-Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz visited Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih in Rochester in the State of Minnesota to find out about his health. The Yemeni president is having some medical tests carried out. Prince Faysal told MBC about the president's health after the meeting:

[Faysal] Praise be to God, I found his excellency the president in the best of health. He is having routine and regular medical tests. Most of these are over with. His excellency the president is in the best of health.

[Fahmi] On his meeting with Prince Faysal, the Yemeni president said:

[Salih] The meeting was a fraternal one. Prince Faysal conveyed the greetings of his majesty the king. I briefed him on the results of the initial tests that were conducted at the hospital. All the results are good.

[Fahmi] Regarding positive developments in relations between the two countries, Prince Faysal said that Saudi Arabia and Yemen are one country and that love, like confidence, cannot be divided.

[Faysal] It was an opportunity in which his excellency the president honored me by talking about the distinguished relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Republic of Yemen. We also spoke about various matters all of which converge toward one basic thing, which is what unites Saudi Arabia with Yemen.

[Fahmi] President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih agreed with this point. As for relations between Yemen and the United States, which the Yemeni president is visiting for the first time since the end of the Gulf war, the president said that these relations are progressing continuously.

[Salih] I came here on a private visit to carry out some tests. If the opportunity comes up to meet with U.S. officials, it will be a positive step toward bolstering bilateral relations, which are excellent and based on the joint interests of the two friendly countries.

[Fahmi] Prince Faysal Bin-Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz accepted the Yemeni president's invitation to visit Sanaa after President Salih finishes his medical check-ups.

Salih Receives Message From Fahd

JN1209093895 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received at his place of residence in Rochester in the United States His Royal Highness Prince Faysal Bin- Fahd, head of the General Corporation of Youth and Sports and envoy of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of fraternal Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques.

Prince Faysal delivered to the president a message from his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, inquiring about the president's health and wishing him continuous good health. The message also dealt with many developments and issues of interest to the relations of brotherhood between the two fraternal and neighborly countries and with means to reinforce and develop these relations.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged cordial talks and reviewed many issues of interest to the two fraternal people and fields of cooperation between them, especially means to reinforce brotherly sports and cultural relations between the Yemeni and Saudi youth in a way that is in line with the relations of brotherhood and neighborliness.

The president asked Prince Faysal to carry a message to his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, expressing his thanks and deep appreciation for his concern and wishing him continuous health and progress and the fraternal Saudi people continuous prosperity. He expressed his satisfaction with the close brotherly relations and our country's eagerness to channel them toward realizing the aspirations of the two fraternal and neighborly peoples in a way that serves the good of the Arabian Peninsula and the region.

The meeting was attended by 'Ali Muhammad al-Anisi, head of the Presidential Office; Muhsin al-'Ayni, our country's ambassador to the United States; 'Abdallah al-Ashtal, our country's permanent representative to the United Nations; and the Saudi charge d'affaires in Washington.

After the meeting, the brother president spoke to the MBC and Yemeni television networks about the nature of his visit. The brother president voiced his pleasure to receive His Highness Prince Faysal Bin-Fahd. He said: The meeting was brotherly, and he delivered to me the greetings of His Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al- 'Aziz and inquired about my health. I reassured him about the results of my medical checkups, all of which were good.

He praised Yemeni-Saudi relations, describing them as distinguished relations that do not need deepening. They are fraternal, close, and special relations.

Asked about any meeting between him and U.S. officials during the visit, the brother president said: I came to the United States on a private visit to undergo some medical checkups. If we get the opportunity to meet with any U.S. officials, then this will be something good. He added: Yemeni-U.S. relations are excellent, and there is fruitful development based on exchange of joint interests and benefits.

Saddam To Use Referendum To 'Reconstruct' Power Base

MS1209100295 London THE GUARDIAN in English 12 Sep 95 p 12

[Report by David Hirst: "Saddam Goes on the Stump"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Irbil—Saddam Husayn has begun an ambitious public relations campaign to prove to a doubting world that, despite his recent adversities, he is still master in his own house.

That is the main purpose of a national referendum, the first since the Ba'athists came to power in 1968, to which he will submit his candidature for another seven years in office. The national assembly unanimously approved this new "democratic" procedure on Sunday. Iraq will invite no fewer than 20,000 observers from all countries, including the U.S. — to witness the referendum, which will take place within 60 days.

The referendum is also part of President Saddam's efforts to reconstruct his power base after the blow dealt by the flight of his son-in-law and henchman General Husayn Kamil.

"Democracy" is the slogan under which he is restoring authority to centres of power — mainly the Ba'ath Party and the army — outside his immediate family. That at least is the impression he is striving to give.

Hitherto it was he who appointed members of the Ba'ath Party's all-important "armed forces committee"; last week he presided over a conference at which they were ostensibly elected. High-level commands have gone to non-party and non-family professional soldiers.

Most striking is the decreased attention paid to President Saddam's elder son 'Udayy, whose whims and rages have played havoc in the ruling house. He no longer pens bizarre diatribes in his newspaper BABEL. The party organ, AL-THAWRAH, is regaining prominence as the official mouthpiece.

"But it's too late for such reforms, even if they were serious, to work," said a former high-ranking adviser of President Saddam's who has defected to Irbil.

"He just doesn't know what to do about the only thing that really matters, the UN sanctions, and he falls back on manoeuvre, clutching at straws-like his overture to President al-Asad (of Syria)."

Last week, for the first time since 1979, an Iraqi official said something mildly complimentary about President Saddam's most hated foe, calling his position on the Majid affair "balanced and objective". Certainly, Mr. al-Asad is deeply worried by the prospects of a pro-Jordanian, pro-American succession in Baghdad — but the chances of his joining President Saddam in a new anti- American axis are slight indeed.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, said yesterday that UN economic sanctions against Iraq would continue for some time. The Security Council decided on Friday not to modify the five-year-old Gulf war sanctions.

The referendum is officially acclaimed as a transition from "revolutionary legitimacy" to "constitutional legitimacy". The head of the Revolutionary Command Council (RCC) used automatically to be head of state. Now the RCC must ask parliament to ratify its choice, and parliament must in turn put it to the people.

"Difficult circumstances" — the eight-year Iraq-Iran war and the mother of battles — long prevented this reform. Other "difficult circumstances" — the "evil" UN sanctions-persist; but the RCC has "courageously" resolved to "furnish the Iraqi people with the chance to deliver an unequivocal answer to the lies of foreigners who doubt the leadership's sincerity in carrying through its democratic programme".

President Saddam is the only candidate, and, if the army newspaper AL—QADISIYAH is right, all will vote for him, because "the incontrovertible mother of all facts is that our leader is our sun. And had they waited hundreds of years for his advent they would have immediately recognised and clasped him to them — and will do so as long as 'God is great' sounds from Iraqi minarets and birds sing in Iraqi gardens".

Saddam Reportedly Planning Political Changes

JN1109193695 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 11 Sep 95 p 1

[Unattributed "exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad is propagating a new plan to emerge from its current impasse. However, nobody can be sure whether this plan is genuine or simply a tactical move aimed at easing the tension and improving the regime's domestic and foreign image.

The details of this plan were related by an Iraqi official who visited Jordan last week. In sum, the Iraqi president's plan aims at introducing comprehensive changes into the structure of his rule, for he found himself in an impasse with no way out without a "strong electrical shock" to ease the burden of the U.S. and Arab pressures. He has realized that results of those pressures will be catastrophic to the regime.

According to the Iraqi official, Saddam Husayn will introduce comprehensive changes into his regime to exclude the al-Tikriti clan, particularly 'Udayy, and their relatives and loyalists from the centers of authority. Saddam Husayn realized, albeit late, that he was mistaken when he let some of the most important pillars of the regime rest on his son 'Udayy. Deep inside, he holds 'Udayy responsible for much of the domestic and foreign deterioration which led the rule and the people to their current isolation and affliction.

A Palestinian-Jordanian leader at the Jordanian House of Representatives cited the Iraqi official, with whom he met, as saying that Saddam Husayn is seriously considering sending 'Udayy to one of Moscow's universities to complete his studies, which he started at Baghdad University, though in appearance only. The aim of this move is to remove 'Udayy from the new atmosphere propagated by the Iraqi president, which will include the formation of a new government "with acceptable faces," among whom there will be national Iraqi personalities with no party affiliation and who have been stripped of most of their powers and shelved since 1979 when Saddam Husayn came to power.

The Iraqi plan that is being propagated provides for a general reconciliation with the Shiites in the south and the Kurds in the north by assigning ministerial, political, and military posts to the most important tribal leaders in the two regions and involving them extensively in the rule of the country. In addition, three Shiite, Kurdish, and Christian vice presidents will be appointed.

The Iraqi official has been cited as saying that the possible vice presidents are:

1. Sa'dun Hammadi (Shiite), holds a Phd in chemistry and biological sciences from a U.S. university. He is from al-Najaf. He is a permanent member of the National Command of the ruling Ba'th Party. He was appointed prime minister, foreign minister, and oil minister more than once. He contributed to the efforts to heal the continued rift between the Shiites in the south and the rule in Baghdad.

2. Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf (Kurd). He is currently a vice president, but has been shelved and nobody hears about him in Iraq, If the mediations Saddam Husayn intends to initiate with the Kurds in the north end successfully, then Saddam Husayn, according to the Iraqi official, will be ready to appoint Mas'ud Barzani or whomever he chooses to become vice president instead of Ma'ruf.

3. Tariq 'Aziz (Christian). He is one of the first generation of Ba'thists in Iraq. He was chief editor of the newspaper AL- JAMAHIR (ceased publication) and then AL-THAWRAH, before he was appointed information minister and then foreign minister. He is a permanent member of the National Command and current deputy prime minister. He headed the party's pan-Arab information office for a long time. He attained his high school education at a foreign Christian missionary school in Baghdad before attaining a bachelor degree in English literature from Baghdad University.

The plan also calls for appointing a leading figure from the al-Dulaym tribe, one of the largest Iraqi tribes which numbers more than one million, as prime minister, to restore relations with the regime to normal after the execution of one of its sons, a ranking army officer. This led to fighting in Abu-Ghurayb two months ago as a result of which many from the al- Dulaym tribe were killed after trying to free some of their prisoners by force from a prison in that area which is close to Baghdad.

The Iraqi official said that only two of the Iraqi president's relatives will have a part in the new responsibilities, but that their role has not been defined yet. These two are Qusayy, Saddam Husayn's son who is currently responsible for overall security in Iraq, and Barzan al-Tikriti, his half brother, Iraq's representative to the United Nations in Geneva.

The official said that Iraqi envoys will be sent abroad soon, perhaps this month, to meet with Iraqi opposition members who are not all that hostile to the regime and the party on the ideological level to have them return to Iraq and assume key positions and effectively participate in running the country.

Following these contacts, a genuine general amnesty will be granted to all Iraqis residing abroad and they will be invited to return to contribute to the reconstruction of the country that was destroyed by the war.

The intention is to appoint Nizar Hamdun, currently Iraq's envoy to the United Nations, as foreign minister, because he is acceptable to the Americans and because he has solid friendship relations within the U.S. Administration. He is also viewed as a moderate and is more like Tariq 'Aziz and not like most of the present figures of the regime.

Nizar Hamdun graduated from the Jesuits school in Baghdad and from its university with a Bachelor Degree in Architecture. He held party positions, then was appointed Information Ministry under secretary, foreign minister during the Iraqi-Iranian war, and ambassador in Washington. He returned to Baghdad following the Irangate scandal as foreign ministry under secretary until he was appointed ambassador to the United Nations.

According to the plan, the operation of comprehensive change will focus on the following three serious and complicated issues:

1. Iraq will fully implement its commitments on nonconventional nuclear and chemical weapons disarmament and in accordance with what the international community wants.

2. The new Iraqi government will immediately support the peace process and will join it after the PLO had joined it and became an essential partner in this process, given that Iraq had from the start recognized the PLO as the Palestinians' sole and legitimate representative.

3. Iraq will genuinely resolve its differences with the Gulf states after publicly admitting that the invasion of Kuwait was a mistake, restore relations to normal, seek to definitively end the enmity with the Iranians resulting from the war, and exert sincere efforts to forget the past and adopt new confidence-building measures that would enable the reopening of the borders between the countries.

The Iraqi official admitted that it will be some time before the world would accept this plan, and may take one to two years. But, the Iraqi regime is now convinced that without such a plan the embargo will not be lifted. The Iraqi regime will try through its meticulous and sincere implementation of this plan to erase the bad image it has given itself, and will appoint officials acceptable to the United States to key positions and give them a free hand to reformulate foreign policy to have the world agree to its return to the international fold.

The question that remains to be answered is whether this plan is real or merely a test balloon?

Referendum Commission Discusses Voting Cards

JN1109170095 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1536 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—The Higher Commission, which is in charge of supervising the general popular referendum on the post of president, held a meeting today chaired by 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and chairman of the Higher Commission.

The Higher Commission discussed the National Assembly's unanimous approval of President Saddam Husayn's nomination for the post of president during the meeting held yesterday by the Assembly in light of the recent amendment to the Constitution.

During today's meeting, the Higher Commission studied the proposed date for holding the referendum, as well as the need to obtain a republican decree to this effect.

The Higher Commission then discussed supplying each voter with two cards. The first, which will be supplied to the citizens by the supervision committees well ahead of the referendum day, will be used for identification purposes and will be carried by the voter on the referendum day. The second is the referendum card, which the citizen will receive at polling centers on the referendum day.

The meeting also decided to form specialized committees to prepare instructions on implementing the articles of the general popular referendum law in order to be referred to the Higher Commission and to be published by media organs in a way that will ensure the citizens' full freedom in this national democratic practice.

'New Phase' of Political History Discussed

JN1109163695 Baghdad INA in English
1140 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Sept 11, INA—Last week's changes in Iraq's Constitution are but a prelude to a new phase in the country's modern political history, THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER newspaper says.

Since the mid 1980s, the government declared intentions to bring about a radical change in the political life, namely the promotion of democracy and pluralism. Despite the tremendous strains of the war that raged with Iran, Baghdad never lost sight of the prospects of a democratic Iraq.

No sooner had Iraq emerged victorious from the 8-year costly conflict with neighboring Iran that a new phase of what has turned not to be a long-running scheme was initiated by hostile forces led by the United States and its regional lackeys.

War exhausted Iraq had to handle a situation which was just as hard and crucial as the war with Iran was. There was the economic war that targeted Iraq's lifeline, the oil revenues, which Baghdad pinned hope on to remedy the wounds of the war and to finance fresh and ambitious plans to put Iraq's economy back on a peaceful track.

But Iraq's oil revenues started to dwindle at an alarming scale due to an oil glut created by the overproduction by some Gulf states first and foremost Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia sending oil prices tumbling to nearly seven dollars a barrel. That policy dealt Iraq's plans for economic and democratic revival a serious blow and was among the key reasons of the events of August 1990.

By Western standards, democracy cannot be brought in overnight. It has taken years for some states to see the seeds of a democratic rule grow. Nascent democracies have been nurtured and taken care of lest they should lurch back a dictatorship, in short, no democracy can flourish under crisis and war conditions.

Opposition Efforts To Oust Saddam Viewed

BR0809125795 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 8 Sep 95 p 6

[From a report signed "A.A.H.": "Opposition Seeks Cooperation With Army To Overthrow Saddam Husayn"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Madrid — The opposition to Saddam Husayn, which is grouped in the National Iraqi Congress (NIC), is not ruling out any method to overthrow the dictator, although it would prefer this to be achieved through cand even in his own family circle."

The NIC brings together Kurdish, Islamist, nationalist, and democratic political parties, as well as the Communist and Socialist parties of Iraq. "Our aim is not power, but introducing into the country a political agenda geared to establishing democracy." The means of achieving this is by grouping all the various forces, including deserters from Saddam's regime — such as his own brothers in law, General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brother, who fled the country last August with their respective wives and are now living in Jordan — and dissidents within the Armed Forces. "It is important," he added, "that people like Kamil are abandoning Husayn, and that leaders like King Husayn realize that an end must be put to the dictatorship."

"We accept any valid means of overthrowing the dictator," Rashid stated, adding that the NIC was financed by the Iraqis themselves and that no foreign country — including the United States — was contributing financially to its maintenance, despite a number of requests made in this direction. "We have asked the Arab countries and the United Nations to help us by allowing us to use the Iraqi regime's funds which were blocked at the time of the Gulf War."

Rashid, who is currently visiting Spain, said he had met Foreign Ministry officials and a number of Spanish politicians to win their support for a change of regime in Iraq. "Spain has very good economic and political relations with our country and with the whole of the Middle East and, besides, Spain is a leading member of the EU and therefore can do a lot to help us."

Husayn Kamil Reportedly Took Secret Trip to Israel

JN1109191495 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 11 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri in Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MUHARRIR has learned that General Husayn Kamil, former Iraqi minister of industrialization who recently defected to Jordan, paid a 10-hour secret visit to Israel last week. He was accompanied by a number of aides. During the visit, he met with a number of Israeli and U.S. officials—who preferred to meet with him away from the Jordanian capital, given Jordanian officials' insistence on taking part in any talks with the defector Iraqi minister. This Jordanian stand emanates from Amman's determination to take part in any future arrangement concerning Iraq.

AL-MUHARRIR was informed that during his visit, Husayn Kamil met with officials from the Israeli Foreign Ministry and from Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's office. He also met with officials from the Mosad, Shin Bet, and military intelligence. However, he did not meet with Yitzhaq Rabin personally or with any prominent Israeli political figures.

Information indicates that Kamil had a very busy agenda, which included discussion of many basic issues and topics, foremost of which is the internal situation of the Iraqi regime. Talks also focused on the unseen sources of power Saddam Husayn and his son 'Udayy enjoy and the nature of Iraq's foreign relations and alliances.

Israeli officials asked Husayn Kamil to reveal to them the type of contacts Iraq used to hold with a number of Arab countries, specifically Egypt, Libya, and Morocco. They submitted to him a comprehensive offer demonstrating their readiness to provide him with any security or financial assistance and open new contact channels between him and some Iraqi elements abroad. In return for this offer, they asked for a detailed map of the locations of Iraqi military facilities, particularly those of weapons of mass destruction. The Israeli officials specified for Husayn Kamil 40 Iraqi military locations, which they said still pose a danger to Israel's security. They described their information on these locations as obscure.

Husayn Kamil reportedly reacted to this offer by saying: "It is necessary to continue discussion of ways to finalize this deal but within the framework of a broader offer and in light of other visits I will soon pay to a number of the region's countries."

Jordanian Energy Minister Darwazah Continues Visit

Says Ties '100 Percent Normal'

JN1109112395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Sep 95 pp 1, 28

[Report by AL-DUSTUR correspondent Ahmad 'Abd-al-Majid in Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Samih Darwazah, Jordanian minister of energy and mineral resources, who is visiting

Baghdad, described Jordanian-Iraqi relations as "100 percent normal."

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR yesterday morning at the end of the talks, he said: We did not notice any change after the defection of General Husayn Kamil Hasan to Jordan.

Darwazah's arrival in Baghdad on 9 September is the first visit by a ranking Jordanian official to the Iraqi capital after the defection to Jordan by Gen. Kamil, his brother, and their two wives.

He said his visit was for the purpose of discussing the construction of an oil pipeline between the two countries and stressed that Iraqi oil supplies to Jordan will continue.

Jordan receives 70,000 barrels of Iraqi oil daily in accordance with an exemption offered to Jordan by the Sanctions Committee since the beginning of the international embargo imposed on Iraq.

Darwazah stressed that in spite of the news about repairs to the Saudi oil pipeline to Jordan and the Kuwaiti offer to supply Jordan with oil, Jordan will continue to import Iraqi oil, and there is no need for change. [passage omitted]

Comments on Pipeline Project

JN1109154895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0720 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—Samih Darwazah, Jordanian minister of energy and mineral resources, has said Iraq and Jordan are planning a gigantic, strategic project represented by the laying of a crude oil pipeline from Baghdad to the al-Zarqa' refinery in Jordan.

In press statements published here today, the Jordanian minister said: Once this project is carried out, we will stop using trucks to transport large quantities of crude oil between the two countries. He hope the project will be implemented in the near future. The minister added that Jordan continues to transport crude oil from Baghdad to al-'Aqabah port in 1,500 trucks. If the embargo is lifted, he said, the trucks will be used to transport various goods to the port.

The minister stressed that Jordan will continue to import Iraqi oil and that it has no plans to build any other pipeline or to import oil from another country. He termed the Western allegations in this regard as false and said Jordan knows nothing about such plans. He hoped that the embargo on Iraq will be lifted so that it can resume its normal economic activity and contribute to development in the world and the Arab countries. He noted that this is Iraq's inalienable legitimate right.

The Jordanian minister of energy and mineral resources said the Jordanian-Iraqi ties are strong, brotherly, and intimate. He refuted allegations and lies disseminated by Western media that the Jordanian-Iraqi relations were severed. He said these allegations are merely a media campaign aimed at harming the Jordanian-Iraqi relations, and nothing more than a passing cloud that has blown over. Our visit to Iraq, he added, means a great deal to the Jordanian and Iraqi people.

Visits Refineries

JN1209060895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1830 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tikrit, 11 Sep (INA) — Samih Darwazah, Jordanian minister of energy and mineral resources, and his accompanying delegation today visited the State Enterprise for Oil Refineries in the northern area, Baiji, in Salah al-Din governorate.

Accompanied by Minister of Oil Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, the delegation examined the work of the enterprise's refineries.

Signs Oil Agreement

JN1109194895 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1840 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—Iraq and Jordan signed here today a joint memorandum of understanding in the field of oil.

The memorandum was signed for the Iraqi side by Oil Minister Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid and for the Jordanian side by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Samih Darwazah, who said during the signing ceremony that the memorandum was the beginning of efforts to implement many joint projects in the oil field in the near future.

Lieutenant General 'Amir Rashid also spoke during the signing ceremony. He said that the memorandum, which contains an agreement to establish an Iraqi-Jordanian company for oil studies and development and to build a Jordanian-Iraqi refinery in al-'Aqabah, showed the growing brotherly relations despite attempts to harm them. He also praised Jordan's cooperation to make the signing of the memorandum successful. The signing ceremony was attended by the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

Samih Darwazah, Jordanian minister of energy and mineral resources, told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that signing an agreement to build an Iraqi pipeline to al-Zarqa' refinery in Jordan is the most important project to be implemented under this memorandum. The implementation, he added, would begin in two months after the necessary studies are prepared.

He added: The memorandum stipulates the establishment of joint projects and an Iraqi-Jordanian company for oil studies. The company will extend services to all Arab countries. It will make use of the expertise and capabilities of the two countries. He noted that the first joint study will address the Iraqi-Jordanian pipeline project due to be executed in accordance with the memorandum.

He stressed the Iraq and Jordan had agreed to set up a refinery in al-'Aqabah in Jordan, adding that the studies needed for implementing this project had been prepared.

Lt. Gen. 'Amir Muhammad Rashid told an INA correspondent that this memorandum came following extensive efforts by the two sides with the aim of setting up a refinery in al-'Aqabah. He pointed out that the capacity of the refinery will be 140,000 barrels per day [bpd] and can be increased to 250,000 refined bpd. He said the pipeline's projected capacity will be 100,000 bpd in the initial stage, and will hopefully be increased to 350,000 bpd in the second stage. He noted that the aim of this is to minimize the trouble of transporting oil via tanks. He said: This is the starting point. For the first time, a theoretical decision will be implemented on the ground.

Vice President Meets Kurd Representative in Syria

JN1209062795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1815 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received ('Umar Bathani), member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party's [KDP] Central Committee and head of the KDP relations office in Syria, in Damascus on 11 September.

The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere during which our party's representative explained in detail the current situation in Kurdistan and the latest developments, particularly the Kurdistan Workers Party's [PKK] treacherous actions and its practices against the people of Iraqi Kurdistan and the party.

'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam praised our party's policies, and said the Syrian officials are eager to promote relations between our party and the Syrian command. The Syrian vice president also praised brother Mas'ud Barzani's role and stand in these complicated circumstances the region experiences. He said he is pained at the attacks against the party at this stage.

At the end of the meeting, 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam asked 'Umar Bathani to convey his greetings to brother Mas'ud Barzani, the leader of our party.

Kurdish Party Lists New Central Committee Members

JN0809175395 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 19 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kurdistan Democratic Party held its 12th National Congress, the congress of salvation and cleansing, on 17 August. At its conclusion, the congress issued its final statement, which included the basic issues which were tackled by the congress. The preamble of the statement reviewed the work of the opening session, which was attended by comrade 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. In his report, party secretary comrade Ahmad Muhammad Sa'id al-Atrushi dealt with the progress of the party between the two congresses. The final statement dealt with the second session of the congress during which the organizational and financial reports were submitted, the central committee was dissolved, and the president of the congress was elected. The final session of the congress was devoted to electing the secretary of the party. Comrade Ahmad Muhmammad Sa'id al-Atrushi was unanimously reelected secretary of the party. This was followed by the election of the Central Committee as follows:

1. Muhsin Tahir al-Barzanji
2. Nasr al-Din Majid Sharif
3. Muhammad Khalid Husayn
4. Nasr al-Din Muhammad Amin Ruzbiyani
5. Rashid Muhammad Sa'id
6. Sa'id Qadir al-Jaf
7. Burhan 'Aziz Nadir
8. Waliy Isma'il Karim
9. Isma'il Ibrahim Haydar
10. Sabih 'Abd-al-Majid Hasan

The following candidate members were elected:

1. 'Abd-al-Rahman Ibrahim Ahmad
2. Jalal Salih al-Huwayzi
3. Ibrahim Saykhan

The final statement also dealt with the procedures of the first meeting and structure of the new Central Committee. Comrade Muhsin Tahir al-Barzanji was elected deputy secretary of the party. The following were elected members of the Political Bureau:

1. Sa'id Qadir al-Jaf
2. Rashid Muhammad Sa'id
3. Muhammad Khalid Husayn

The responsibilities of the branches were then distributed among the comrade members of the Central Committee.

Kurdistan Revolutionary Party Congress Viewed

JN0809194295 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 22 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by an AL-'IRAQ correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the slogan: "Defending Autonomous Kurdistan Means Defending the Unity of Great Iraq in its Present and Future Under the leadership of Comrade Struggler Saddam Husayn, May God Preserve Him," the Kurdistan Revolutionary Party held its 13th National Congress yesterday. The opening session was attended by Baha' al-Din Ahmad, speaker of the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region; comrade Ahmad Muhammad Sa'id al- Atrushi, secretary of the Kurdistan Democratic Party; secretary generals of the autonomous organizations, and the comrade members of the Political Bureau and the Central Committee of the Kurdistan Democratic Party. [passage omitted]

Comrade Ibrahim Tahir Salam, deputy secretary of the Kurdistan Revolutionary Party, read the party's political report in which he said: In these historic moments in the struggle course of our Kurdistan Revolutionary Party and while we are meeting here to add a new brick to the national edifice of our party through the work of our 13th Congress, we recall all the chapters of our party's bright march and clear principled stands on all national and pan-Arab issues. [passage omitted]

The deputy secretary added: In the face of the tragic situation in our beloved Kurdistan today, we recall with pride and gratitude how it used to be under the autonomy law and the care of the leader of the people comrade struggler Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. From this place and in the name of our 13th National Congress, we cannot but send the greetings of affection and loyalty to the engineer of the autonomy comrade struggler Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, and affirm that we place all of our party's capabilities and resources at his excellency's disposal for the full recovery and prosperity of our beloved Kurdistan so that the sun of freedom, democracy, honor, and free honorable life would shine again on the land of Kurdistan. [passage omitted]

Comrade Ibrahim Tahir Salam dealt in his political report with the Arab and international situation under imperialist domination and imperialism's plotting against Iraq and the Arab nation and its endeavor to control the Arab region and the world. He explained the party's role in the immortal Mother of Battles and its volunteering to take up arms in defense of great Iraq. He also dealt with the role of the murderous gangsters in autonomous Kurdistan in seizing the party's offices in Kurdistan, looting their contents and destroying them, and hunting down party leaders and members. Despite this tragic situation, he said, the party has been able to set up secret cells in defense of autonomous Kurdistan and great Iraq.

The comrade deputy secretary recalled the loyal record of the former secretary of the party, comrade Majid Rashid al-Jabbari, who could not take part in the work of the congress due to illness. He wished him quick recovery in the name of the party and praised his role in building the party and serving its cause. [passage omitted]

And, as an expression of the party's confidence in him, the congress unanimously elected comrade Ibrahim Tahir Salam as secretary general of the party.

And, by means of direct secret ballot, the following were elected as members of the Central Committee:

1. Nawzat Muhammad Faraj
2. Hamid 'Uthman
3. Ahmad Muhammad 'Inayat
4. Muhammad Tahir Masihah
5. Shihab Ahmad
6. Nasrallah al-Dawudi
7. Muhammad Salih 'Abd-al-Karim
8. Kamal Ahmad Badagh
9. Saman Mahmud
10. Jalal Ramadan

The following were elected candidate members of the Central Committee:

1. Namdar Ghulam Muhammad
2. Nuri Sa'id
3. Mushir Isma'il

KDP 12th Congress Proceedings Reported

JN0809171595 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 18 Aug 95 p 5

[Report by an AL-'IRAQ correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the slogan: "A Pledge to the Leader President and Mujahid Saddam Husayn That We Will Safeguard National Unity With Our Souls, Cleanse Iraqi Kurdistan With Our Blood, and Strengthen the Steadfastness March to the Shores of Victory and Safety," the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] held its 12th National Congress yesterday. The congress, which was attended by comrde 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and official in charge of party organizations in al-Karkh, Baghdad, began with a recitation from the Holy Koran followed by reading of the first sura for the repose of the souls of our martyrs.

Party Secretary Ahmad Muhammad Sa'id al-Atrushi then read the political report to the 12th National Congress in which he referred to the big events witnessed by our struggling country during the period between the 11th National Congress in 1987 and the present congress, represented by the end of the war with Iran and Iraq's brilliant victory in that war on 8 August 1988. The secretary said: This was followed by a new phase of imperialist-Zionist plotting against Iraq, which triumphed in the war with Iran. Then came the 30—state aggression war headed by the United States and the big negative changes which took place due to the domination of the Iraqi Kurdistan region by the gangsters under an imperialist presence headed by the United States and its allies. [passage omitted]

Comrade al-Atrushi affirmed: One of the major tasks facing our congress and party in the next phase is to conduct a practical study of the autonomy experiment and to confront the forces and opinions which are directed against this experiment, especially the gangs which have indulged in crime and strayed from the real interests of our Kurdish people.

Comrade al-Atrushi added: Under the glorious 17-30 July revolution and its victorious leader and symbol of national unity, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, Iraq has turned into a stronghold for free and honest men and a model for development, freedom, and the achievement of autonomy for our Kurdish people. The 11 March 1970 Declaration was an important historic achievement and the fruit of our Kurdish people's struggle in particular, and our Iraqi people's struggle in general. However, the Agent [Barzani] tribal leadership could not march with the time. Thus, it opposed the autonomy and began a hideous internecine war in 1974. That war was the dividing line between the tribal mentality, which is linked to foreign quarters, and the national and pan-Arab mentality, which is deeply rooted in Iraq's history. Thus, the strugglers of the party confronted that backward leadership and stood on the side of Iraq and the noble principles of our wise and courageous leadership.

Comrade al-Atrushi affirmed: Our Kurdistan Democratic Party constitutes the vanguard of the nationalist forces which confronts aggression, rejects blackmail, and continues the struggle to defeat all the chapters of the major plot against Iraq. Our party cannot but be in the trench of Iraq; the trench of honest nationalists and sincere strugglers who will not relent in their struggle to safeguard national unity, cleanse Iraqi Kurdistan, and strengthen the steadfastness march to the shores of victory and safety under the flag of Allahu Akbar, which is carried by the leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

Comrade al-Atrushi concluded his report by saying: Iraqi Kurds are the only Kurds enjoying autonomy. Our Kurdish people sensed this privilege for a long time. However, foreign quarters have not ceased interfering in Iraq's affairs, especially during the chapters of treachery and the domination of Kurdistan by the armed gangsters under foreign protection. The masses of our party will continue to march side by side with all the righteous forces in Iraq to safeguard national unity, cleanse Iraqi Kurdistan, and strengthen the steadfastness march for the crossing to the shores of victory and safety under the flag of Allahu Akbar, which is carried by the leader president and mujahid Saddam Husayn, may God protect him. [passage omitted]

The final session of the congress witnessed the unanimous re- election of comrade Ahmad Muhammad Sa'id al-Atrushi as secretary general of the Kurdistan Democratic Party. This was followed by the election of the central committee composed of comrades: Muhsin Tahir al-Barzanji, Nasr al-Din Ruzbiyani, Sabih 'Abd-al-Majid, Isma'il Ibrahim, Sa'id al-Jaf, Rashid al-Atrushi, Nasr al-Din Zankatah, Waliy Isma'il al-Jaf, Fadil 'Abd-al-Karim, and Burhan 'Aziz.

The conferees concluded their work by addressing a cable of allegiance and loyalty to the builder of Iraq's glory and honor and engineer of the autonomy leader president and mujahid Saddam Husayn, pledging to his excellency that they shall remain loyal soldiers in defense of great Iraq and its pure soil. [passage omitted]

Kurd Leader Expresses Hope for Peace

NC0809163895 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] Secretary General Jalal Talabani has expressed his hope that the meeting between the PUK and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] will result in restoring comprehensive peace to Iraqi Kurdistan. He asserted that the two (?parties) have decided to establish peace between them and that they have expressed their desire to reach a comprehensive agreement on maintaining the regional government and the Kurdistan parliament and on several sticking points.

Talabani made these remarks in press statements in the Syrian capital, Damascus, carried by German radio this morning.

Kurd Leader on Plans To Sign Peace Agreement

MM1109080195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Sep 95 p 7

[Report by Ibrahim Humaydi: "Talabani Confirms he and Barzani Will Sign Peace Agreement in Washington Soon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] leader Jalal Talabani has confirmed that he will meet Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] leader Mas'ud Barzani in Washington on 25 September "to sign a peace agreement" following the meeting of "delegations from the two parties' political bureaus on 12 September." He pointed out that he had not heard "any comments from Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam on Kurdistan's self-rule and institutions" in north Iraq.

In an interview with AL-HAYAH, Talabani said that he will meet Khaddam on 9 September to "discuss the details" since the talks held the day before yesterday dealt with "generalities of the situation in Iraq, and I did not hear any criticism, but instead, our views were close and similar" on the issues discussed. In response to a question, he indicated that Khaddam did not make "any comment on the self-rule and its institutions, and there is no criticism directed at the Unified Iraqi National Congress, because they (in Syria) know my position since its establishment." He stressed that relations between the PUK and Syria "are based on a common attitude to struggle and will remain so even if other fronts or institutions are formed, but the idea of an extended meeting of the opposition remains premature."

On the U.S. Administration's invitation to both Talabani and Barzani to meet in Washington, the PUK leader said he officially accepted the invitation and that "I sent a letter to Washington to that effect with the aim of completing the Dublin talks on 12 September. These will take place at Political Bureau delegation level, to change the agreed clauses into written principles and known facts and to sign a peace agreement" between the two parties' leaders.

He explained that the agreement's clauses include "restoring parliament and government to normal life, stimulating democratic life in a peaceful atmosphere, implementing the Kurdistan Regional National Council's decisions, restoring customs revenues to the government, ending the infighting, normalizing relations between us, and intensifying efforts against Iraqi dictatorship." Talabani announced the day before yesterday that the Dublin talks aim to discuss "the creation of a demilitarized zone in Irbil and reactivation of Kurdish institutions" in north Iraq.

These remarks followed a statement made by Talabani after his meeting with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. He met yesterday with Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the ruling Ba'th party. They discussed the Iraqi issue. He also met a number of Iraqi opposition figures in the Syrian capital, among them former Iraqi intelligence chief Major General Wafiq al-Samara'i.

After denying comments made by KDP officials that Syria is encouraging the infighting with the PUK and the Kurdish Workers Party, led by Abdullah Ocalan, Talabani stressed that Damascus "always urges harmony between the two parties and is working for stability in the region," and that what he had heard during his meeting with Khaddam "supports that and harmony between the two parties, and the accusations leveled at Syria are unjust."

He told AL-HAYAH that he had accepted the official invitation to visit Amman after General Husayn Kamil's defection there at the beginning of last month "but a date has not been fixed yet."

Explosions Reported in Kurdish Town; No Damage

NC0909170195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As part of the plan of our nation's enemies to implement their vicious conspiracies in the Kurdistan region, undermine its security and stability, obstruct the peace agreement signed in Dublin by delegations from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Party, and violently terrorize the citizens of Kurdistan, an explosive device was set off near the police headquarters in Kifri at 1530 on 9 September. At 1600 a similar explosion occurred near the city's customs office. The explosions caused no damage.

Blast on 7 Sep Said To Target Kurdish Leader

NC1009164595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1505 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Last evening, Kurdistan region Prime Minister Kusrat Rasul 'Ali visited a hospital in Irbil and inquired after the health of those wounded in the explosion in Irbil on 7 September and wished them a quick recovery.

Last night, Kusrat Rasul 'Ali, a Member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] Political Bureau and prime minister, received a delegation of the Islamic Movement in Kurdistan, comprised of 'Abdallah Qasri and Mullah

Yasin, members of the leading committee in the Islamic Movement.

During the 90-minute meeting, which was attended by PUK Political Bureau member Firidun 'Abd-al-Qadir, they discussed ways of promoting bilateral ties. The Islamic Movement delegation stongly condemned the criminal attempt aimed at the prime minister.

Clashes Between Kurd Groups Reported

TA1109161595 Ankara ANATOLIA in English
1520 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, Sept 11 (AA)—Nearly 300 terrorists rendered ineffective, most of them killed, during clashes with Iraqi Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), it was reported on Monday [11 September]. KDP sources told A.A. that sometimes the terrorists could escape with the dead ones after the clashes so this number could rise.

The same sources said KDP managed to eradicate the terrorists from Mizuri region which has strategical importance for them, adding 'we are resolved to eradicate the PKK from the region or at least we will not allow them to nest in the region in big groups.'

KDP sources said their losses are nearly 50 after the clashes.

Rival Kurdish Factions To Meet in Dublin

NC0909170095 Paris AFP in English
1504 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sept 9 (AFP) — Two rival Iraqi Kurdish factions said on Saturday [9 September] they would hold a second meeting in Dublin to discuss the implementation of an accord to end their feuding in northern Iraq.

The representative for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) in London, Latif Rashid, told AFP that the meeting would take place Tuesday in the Irish capital with the Democratic Party of Kurdistan (DPK).

The two sides will address the "details of the implementation" of the August 11 declaration of principles, he said.

The PUK and DPK agreed last month in the Dublin suburb of Drogheda to stop fighting which has killed more than 2,000 people since May 1994 in northern Iraq, an area held by the Kurds in defiance of Baghdad since 1991.

The two parties also made a commitment to demilitarise the Kurdish capital Irbil, held by the PUK since December, and share the 100,000 to 150,000 dollars levied daily in taxes by the DPK on Iraqi oil shipped by trucks to Turkey.

These shipments, carried out in violation of the UN trade and oil embargo imposed on Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, are the main revenue for Iraqi Kurds.

DPK spokesman in London Fawzi al-Atrushi, also contacted from the United Arab Emirates, said the two sides have so far complied with the Drogheda resolutions, stopping their fighting and ceasing their media campaigns.

Rashid said the Dublin meeting will last three to four days, and if a final agreement is reached, PUK leader Jalal Talabani and DPK chief Mas'ud Barzani might formally sign it at a ceremony in Washington.

Talabani and Barzani were invited to Washington on September 25 for talks on northern Iraq.

Rashid added that officials from the U.S. State Department and Turkey will be present at the talks, as well as a representative from the Iraqi National Congress — a coalition of opposition groups.

The PUK delegation at the Dublin talks will be led by Nishriwan Mustafa, and the DPK's by Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman.

The meeting comes after bomb attacks against PUK officials killed eight people Wednesday and Thursday in the main northern Iraqi town of Irbil. Both the PUK and the DPK blamed the attacks on unnamed parties seeking to torpedo the peace process.

Kurds Offered New Opportunity for Dialogue

95LH0228A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
4 Jul 95 p 6

[Article by Dr. Sami Sa'dun: "Iraqi Kurds: New Opportunity for Dialogue; Numerous Turkish Party Figures, Politicians, and Parliamentarians Realize That It Is in Turkey's and Region's Interest Not To Renew Stay of Foreign Forces; History Will Not Forgive Those Who Persist in Their Lackeyhood and Treason; Here Is Another Opportunity To Return To Country's Bosom and To Take Part in Our Struggling People's Battle Against Aggressors and Their Blockade"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the second time this year, Iraq has invited the outlaw Kurdish factions hiding behind protection of the invading forces in the northern part of the country for dialogue to end the pending problems and to strengthen the countries national unity. The invitation was issued in the statement Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz made on 18 June 1995 to

INA, asserting that the invitation which the Council of Ministers issued for dialogue last January still stands. This assertion answers the various allegations and lies to which the Turkish Government resorts every time advantage of the presence of the so-called U.S. "hammer forces" in Turkish territories adjacent to northern Iraq is discussed.

The gist of these allegations and lies is that failure to extend the presence of these forces will expose Turkish national security to danger as a result of the possibility that Iraq will launch against its Kurds an offensive that will force them to flee to Turkish territories!

These are false and groundless allegations. It is easy to an observer of the developments experienced by the region in the past four years to answer and refute the promoters of these allegations. The region, and the conditions in southern Turkey in particular, were more stable before the arrival of these invading forces than they have been in their presence. The same applies to Iraq's Kurds. The anarchy, the bloody clashes, the war of liquidation, and the vague future under which Iraq's Kurds live and the destruction and devastation experienced by the northern area have been caused by the U.S. Administration. This administration has prevented Kurds from signing the agreement they developed with the central government in Baghdad in August 1991. With the presence of these forces, the U.S. administration has urged the Kurds to continue their rebellion and to destroy all accomplishments made for our Kurdish people under the umbrella of the self-rule law, as well as accomplishments of the glorious July revolution. None of the other governments which have a Kurdish majority [as published] have made such accomplishments. Nothing similar to the self-rule law has ever been issued throughout the region's history.

The reasons for extending the stay of the U.S. "hammer forces" are not what the Turkish Government alleges. This government is as unconcerned as can be with Iraq's Kurds. At the same time, it has exploited the presence of these forces and the lawless conditions emanating from this presence in northern Iraq to massacre its own citizens and to pursue them all the way into mountain hidings beyond its borders, thinking that this is the sound way to wipe out the escalating Kurdish opposition and its armed faction, the PKK Moreover, the reality confirms that stable conditions can be attained only through the central government's return to the north and through cooperation between the neighboring countries to establish security and stability there. Stable conditions cannot be established with murder, terrorism, and military campaigns. For example, in a report it circulated on 18 June, REUTERS said that Turkish Kurd refugees in northern Iraq exceed 20,000 refugees currently. Security is not established and stability is not achieved by keeping foreign forces, whose objective is to maintain the abnormal conditions in Iraq's Kurdistan and to perpetuate the unjust blockade imposed as a part of the major plot to which Iraq is subjected. This plot is aimed at the patriotic ruling regime, at its sincere leadership, and at the country's sovereignty and national unity.

This is why we say and why numerous patriotic Turkish party figures, politicians, and parliamentarians realize that it is in Turkey's interest and in the interest of the region's security and stability not to renew the stay of these invading forces. These forces' tendentious political objectives have been exposed. To answer all those who wager on these forces, we say their presence will not accomplish what the enemies, may they be frustrated and vanquished, aspire to accomplish, namely to undermine the steadfastness and resolve of Saddam Husayn's Iraq.

Let us return to our main issue, meaning the new call for dialogue. This call confirms that the leadership is magnanimous and keen on unity of the national soil. This leadership has kept the door open for the Kurdish factions that have rebelled against its authority, despite the disgraceful acts and crimes they have committed. It has repeatedly invited them to dialogue and negotiation to resolve all problems. Several rounds of negotiation were held in Baghdad from April to August 1991, and agreement was developed on everything in those negotiations.

All that remained was to sign the agreement, which the U.S. Administration prevented the Kurds from doing at the time. Edward Djerjian, the then deputy secretary of state, told the Kurds explicitly, "Your accord with Saddam Husayn will strengthen his regime, and this is what we don't want."

With the expanded scope of the armed conflict and of the crushing war witnessed by Kurdistan between Talabani's and Barzani's parties, and in order to stop the bloodshed, Baghdad has again invited these factions to dialogue and negotiation in order to develop a satisfactory solution that establishes security and stability in the area. The invitation still stands and it has been reaffirmed. The new call for dialogue is, if they respond to it, which is what we hope for, a new opportunity for them to atone for their offenses against the country, the people, and their kinsmen. These factions have realized now that they are nothing but a "losing card" and that the Americans and their allies will cast away this card as soon as they have used it.

A quick glance at the past and a comparison between the peaceful self-ruled Kurdistan which experienced development, progress, and prosperity from 1970-1990 on the one hand and, on the other hand, the devastation, anarchy, and lawlessness in which Kurdistan lives currently under the authority of misguided gangs that are protected by the foreigners' bayonets, evokes pain, bitterness, grief, and resentment for what has afflicted the area. However, this situation will not last long and will end, God willing, when the abnormal conditions which the great Iraq is experiencing disappear—and they are on their way to disappearing. History will not forgive those who will persist in their lackeyhood and treason. Here is another opportunity for them to return to the country's bosom and to take part with our persevering people in the battle against the aggressors and their unjust blockade. The people are approaching victory now that they have surpassed the most difficult phase. History will note the genuine, great, and strong character of our persevering people, despite the extensive and ugly nature of the aggression and the aggressors. It is a historic opportunity and we hope that our Kurdish people will use it. We believe confidently that our Kurdish people must inevitably return to the country's warm bosom, reaffirming their loyalty to the July revolution that has taken them under its wing and honored them and renewing their loyalty to Saddam Husayn, the triumphant leader, the maker of the 11 March declaration, the self-rule engineer, and the symbol of national unity.

Shahal: Some Iraqi Refugees To Go to PA

TA0809123195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Sep 95 p 5

[Report by Raine Marcus]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Some Iraqi defectors currently in Ramla's Ayalon Prison may be released to the Palestinian Authority [PA] in Gaza, according to an agreement reached between Police Minister Moshe Shahal and Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil Sha'th.

Of 32 Iraqi citizens Shahal met yesterday during a tour of the prison, 14 agreed to go to Gaza.

"No country is prepared to accept them," said Shahal. "But after I met with Sha'th and explained that these people are not criminals he said he was ready to receive them and vouch for their well-being and safety." Shahal added that Sha'th had agreed not to send them to countries where they could be harmed.

The 14 will probably be transferred to Gaza over the next few days. Other solutions will be found for those not willing to go to Gaza.

Shahal said Israeli families of Iraqi and Kurdish origins had agreed to take in and help other refugees.

"It is not humane to keep these people in jail," he said.

Most of the Iraqis in prison here are young and educated, and fled from Iraq because of the treatment while they were serving in the army.

Shahal, a native Arabic speaker, heard the complaints of many of the defectors. [passage omitted]

Last August, 23 Iraqis petitioned the High Court of Justice to be released from prison and to be granted refugee status here. Most of those in prison have deportation orders pending. Some still have Iraqi passports, others have no documents. All are segregated from other prisoners.

Court Orders Review of Deportation

TA1109124095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The High Court of Justice has ordered the police and the Interior Ministry to reconsider their decision to deport 32 Iraqi refugees currently imprisoned in Israel. The judges ruled that the refugees may be deported only to countries that will not deport them once again and in which their lives will not be endangered, and that the refugees should be given the right to veto their country of destination.

Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the judges ordered that two refugees who have been held in prison for over three years be released at once and other arrangements found for them and for all other refugees.

Activities of Extremist Jewish Groups Detailed

TA1109163295 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 11 Sep 95 p 5

[Article by Hanan Schlein: "Kahana Lives in Samaria, KAKH in Judaea"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Several hours after the killing in Halhul, when the media reported that an Arab resident was killed, the EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] organization released a statement assuming responsibility for the murder. An anonymous call several hours later announced that Sword of David members had perpetrated the killing to avenge the death of the Israeli settlers in Mikhmash last week.

The security services are familiar with these announcements by now. Similar announcements by various organizations were made after past incidents in which Palestinians were killed or attacked. The announcements were made by, among others, members of Kahana Hay [Kahana Lives], Kakh, the Sword of David, EYAL, and DOV [Dikuy Bogdim — the Oppression of the Traitors]. The fact that this time they were made only after the radio had reported the incident casts doubt on the authenticity of the announcements.

A new situation has emerged in the territories over the past several months, against the backdrop of the progress made in the political process and the possibility that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will soon withdraw from populated areas, including parts of Hebron. Jewish extremists have been making more threats that they would do whatever they can to frustrate these moves, warning that they will attack Arabs and, if they are left without a choice, Jews too. In view of this radicalization, the Shin Bet has tightened its surveillance of extremist movements such as Kahana Hay, formerly Kakh, and less militant movements such as EYAL.

There are two known nuclei of extreme Jewish activists in the territories: Kakh in Judaea and Kahana Hay in Samaria. These two organizations had belonged to Rabbi Me'ir Kahana's Kakh Movement, but after his death, the movement split, with Kahana Hay, headed by Binyamin Ze'ev Kahana (the rabbi's son), declaring itself to be an independent organization. Most of this group's members live in the settlement of Tapuah in Samaria. Kahana Hay members carried out the hand grenade attack in the butchers market in the Old City of Jerusalem and assumed responsibility for it shortly after the incident. Shin Bet investigators who examined beepers of reporters who had received the movement's announcement that it assumes responsibility for the attack, found that one of the reporters had received the message before the attack actually took place. The Shin Bet also attributes the killing of two Arabs on the Ramallah- Nabulus road in Samaria shortly after the news of Kahana's murder had arrived from the United States, to Kahana Hay members. The security apparatus has so far failed to track down the shooters.

Another group that belonged to Kahana's movement is Kakh, formerly led by Barukh Marzel and No'am Federman, the members of which live in Hebron. Right-wing sources say that the Kakh Movement relays messages under various names. One of the names they have been using is the Sword of David, which assumed responsibility for the Halhul murder. Kakh also uses the name DOV, and under that name, it assumed responsibility for torching the car of Justice Theodore Or in Jerusalem. The Kakh hardcore lives in the Hebron area, but it is known that quite a large number of members live in the Jerusalem area.

Unlike the Kahana Hay members who avoid public acts, former Kakh members carry out many open activities, mainly in Hebron. They torch Arab cars and shops, slash car tires, and so on. The former Kakh members often invite reporters and provide them with pictures and stories on their alleged military activities. More than once, they have taken television crews with them on nocturnal activities in which they don face masks, carry weapons, and roam the streets of Hebron or Samaria, making tough statements to the camera.

Additional bodies affiliated with the Kakh Movement which operate in Judaea are the Committee for Security on the Roads and the Judaea Police. Members of the committee often announce that they are about to patrol the Jerusalem-Hebron road, usually after Jewish motorists are stoned while driving on this road. During the patrols, they often engage in skirmishes in the township of Halhul.

EYAL is a smaller organization. As far as it is known, its members have never used firearms in their activities against Palestinians. According to EYAL members, they usually disperse left-wing demonstrations, meetings, and rallies, and carry out patrols in Arab villages. They claim that their spiritual models are the Irgun and the Stern group. Last year they held a swearing-in ceremony at the grave of Ya'ir in Nahlat Yitzhaq cemetery in Tel Aviv.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 11 September publishes on page 7 a report by Tzvi Singer which adds: "EYAL leader Avishay Raviv yesterday denied that he had gone underground. He was seen in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem and was even interviewed live on television."

[The report goes on to say that "Yequti'el Ben-Ya'aqov Mike Guzowsky, the No. 2 man in the Kahana Hay Movement, is arriving in Israel this afternoon. Kahana Hay leader Binyamin Ze'ev Kahana told YEDI'OT AHARONOT last night that Ben-Ya'aqov's main task would be to set up training camps and an armed Jewish force that would defend the settlements after the IDF redeployment." Reacting to the Halhul murder, Kahana says: "Another Jew sought revenge against another Arab; this is going to be the routine here."]

Knesset Session To Discuss Violence

TA1109182195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset will hold an extraordinary recess session at the beginning of next week on the issue of violence by radical Jews in the territories and the Halhul murder. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the Labor and Meretz factions have submitted 30 signatures necessary for an extraordinary session.

At the same time, Labor Chairman Ra'anan Kohen approached the attorney general, demanding that the EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] and Sword of David movements be outlawed, since they conduct underground activities against Palestinian residents in the territories.

Minister Ya'ir Tzaban asked the attorney general to order the arrest of Kakh activist Mike Guzowsky, who is scheduled to arrive from the United States tonight. Minister Tzaban says Guzowsky is coming to train extreme right-wing activists. He told our correspondent Ron Nesi'el that if the government fails to act with firmness, it will not be able to claim innocence if criminal acts and bloodshed are perpetrated.

Report Shows Decline in Attacks, Rise in Deaths

TA1009153295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A report issued by the Peace Watch organization indicates that the number of Israelis murdered by terrorists over the past two years grew by 73 percent compared to the two years prior to the Oslo accords. Our correspondent Ron Nesi'el notes that the number of Israelis murdered inside the Green Line almost tripled: It rose from 32 to 90.

The total number of lethal attacks dropped sharply in the past year, but the number of fatalities grew due to the suicide attacks.

The report further indicates that the number of Palestinians killed in clashes with the Israeli security forces dropped significantly in the past year, from 114 to 45.

Minister Supports Reciprocal Evacuations

TA1209102195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Sep 95 p 1

[Report by Herb Keinon and Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Religious Affairs Minister Shim'on Shetrit yesterday hinted at a possible trade-off with the Palestinians if, as part of the final status agreement, Jews are removed from Hebron, saying that in return the Palestinians may lose authority over areas such as Abu-Dis and al-'Ayzariyah near Jerusalem.

"The permanent agreement will have to address all the issues of all the settlements," Shetrit said while on a tour of the Makhpela Cave in Hebron. "When the borders are defined, then maybe many areas that are now under control of the Palestinians will have to be removed from Palestinian control, and will become only Israeli."

The final status agreement is an "open question," Shetrit said. Hinting at a possible quid pro quo for removing the settlement in Hebron, Shetrit said, "If we move the 415 Jews from here, maybe Palestinian authority will not be maintained in Abu-Dis or al- 'Ayzariyah." [passage omitted]

[A similar report by Shahar Ilan on page A4 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 12 September quotes Shetrit as having said: "If it is decided to evacuate 415 Jews from Hebron in the framework of the permanent arrangement, Arabs will also have to be evacuated from various places, such as Abu-Dis and al-'Ayzariyah." Shetrit added: "I favor reciprocity, which means that Arabs will also have to be moved or else there will be no reciprocity. A compromise must be made on both sides."]

Regarding whether it makes sense to keep the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] in Hebron to guard 415 settlers, Shetrit said, "When we signed the Oslo agreement, it was a clear principle that there would be no evacuation of settlements during the interim agreement. It doesn't matter if it is 415 settlers, 25, or 30. The principle has to be strictly implemented, because once you start lifting principles, you can lift others as well."

He said the policy of the government is that in the interim stage Rachel's Tomb will stay under full Israeli authority.

One official involved in the negotiations said that although this is Israel's position, the Palestinians are demanding that it be treated much the same as the Shalom 'Al Yisra'el Synagogue in Jericho, where Palestinians guard the site, but Jews have access.

In other matters, Shetrit said that Israel should not free Palestinian prisoners until suspected terrorists whose extradition has been requested are turned over.

"There has to be reciprocity in the agreement," Shetrit said.

Jon Immanuel adds: Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah said of Shetrit's statement, "It is premature to discuss such suggestions. Now we have a problem in Hebron and we need suggestions on how to solve the problem and not how to complicate it." [passage omitted]

David Levi's Party Releases Political Platform

TA1109145395 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 11 Sep 95 p 9

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the first time yesterday, Knesset Member David Levi released his movement's platform in which he defines his party as "a national-social centrist party," while calling Likud a "radical right-wing movement" and Labor a "radical left-wing movement."

The political and social credo of the Levi party was printed out only yesterday for public distribution. The first official publication by Levi's movement states that the party will rely on two main foundations: "a constant drive for peace while insisting on vital and well-defined national principles," and "a commitment to far-reaching measures to advance large population sectors while decreasing intolerable gaps that harm the strength of society."

Levi writes that his party "came to fill a vacuum in the political spectrum. Parties in Israel express polarized political positions: a radical left and a radical right. This vacuum created by the right- and left-wing parties has to be filled by the establishment of a social-national centrist party.

In his political platform Levi states that "peace is a desired goal, but is not a goal in itself. Its aim is the creation of secure and peaceful coexistence between Israel and its neighbors. Israel will continue to aim for peace with its Arab neighbors but will be unable to pay for it with national and personal safety."

Under the headline "Palestinians," Levi's platform says that "an immediate discussion of the permanent arrangements with the Palestinians is called for before facts on the ground are created by the procedures involved in the interim arrangements. [no end quotation mark as published]

The following principles will apply to the permanent arrangements:

A. United Jerusalem is the capital of Israel.
B. Jewish settlements will not be uprooted.
C. There will be no Jewish settlements under Palestinian rule.
D. The security of the settlements will be maintained by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces].

As for Syria, Levi's platform notes that "it is clear to all that Syria is not oriented toward peace at this stage. Its actions clearly prove this: Syria is fighting us through the terrorist organizations.... It rejects the Israeli Government's demand for vital security arrangements on the Golan and consistently refrains from presenting its concept of peace. Syria's present peace strategy aims at undermining Israel."

The platform does not include a hint about the earthshaking pronouncement by Levi last week about his willingness to make concessions on the Golan in return for peace. A large portion of the platform is dedicated to social issues and talks of boosting needy neighborhoods and development towns.

Rabin: Coalition With Levi Not Ruled Out

TA1109174795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin does not rule out the possibility of a coalition with David Levi's Knesset list, if the proper conditions exist after the elections. He made these remarks in a meeting with high school students in Nesher. Shula Schmerling reports:

[Begin recording] [Schmerling] The prime minister, who came to launch the celebrations marking Nesher's new status as a town, began the visit by meeting local high school students, who predictably attacked him on his peace policies.

The prime minister reiterated: Painful as it is, terror does not put the state's existence in jeopardy. Terror has a political objective — to kill the peace process, as demonstrated by the growing opposition to the PLO even within the Palestinian camp. [passage omitted]

If the permanent arrangement makes the Jordan River our outside line, we will have no security problem even when a full-fledged Palestinian entity is established, Rabin said. The prime minister categorically refused to accept the notion of the nation's historic rights as a basis for retaining territories. He said a compromise can be achieved even on what are termed holy shrines, as proved by the Likud in the case of Mount Sinai. [passage omitted]

His audience — the residents of a Likud bastion — could not refrain from asking a question about domestic politics. Mayor David 'Amar, David Levi's closest aide and one of his most loyal peons, asked: Will you be prepared to forge a coalition with David Levi? He replied diplomatically that everything is open, that he does not rule out anything.

[Rabin] I estimate that before the next Knesset elections, the entire political map may change from that of the previous elections. The results will determine who can make a coalition with whom. [end recording]

New Islamic List To Present Candidate

TA1009125495 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Sep 95 p 21

[Report by Fayiz 'Abbas]

[FBIS Translated Text] A political bomb was thrown during the first convention held for the establishment of an Islamic list for the Knesset: The list will present its own candidate for the premiership.

"This is a first time that an Arab will run for the Israeli premiership," the organizers said.

The convention, held in Kafr Kanna near Nazareth, was mostly attended by former members of the Islamic Movement in Israel.

The speakers said that all participants are religious people who are interested in a Knesset list for "defending the rights of the Muslims and the Islamic Waqf in Israel."

The man behind the new Islamic list is Shaykh 'Atif Khatib of Kafr Kanna, who was one of the founders of the Islamic Movement in Israel. He left the movement about three years ago, continued his religious activities, and managed to unite around him those who had left the Islamic Movement.

"We will support the Israeli left wing, but will set conditions for this support, mainly the transfer of the Islamic Waqf to Muslim control and granting complete equality to the Arab population," said Shaykh Khatib. "We are not extremists," Khatib added. "We support the Israeli-Palestinian peace process."

The founders of the new list have elected a team for establishing the institutions of the Islamic list, and another team for negotiating the establishment of a joint Arab list with the Arab parties.

Observers note that a Muslim candidate can harm Yitzhaq Rabin's chances of getting elected to the premiership during the first round of elections. To recall, a candidate can win the first round only if he garners more than 40 percent of the votes.

Pollard Request for Citizenship Rejected

TA1109062195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Interior Minister Ehud Baraq has rejected a request by Esther Pollard to grant Israeli citizenship to Jonathan Pollard. In a letter to Pollard's lawyer, Baraq said after studying the request and holding consultations on the matter, he decided to turn it down.

U.S. Jewish Groups Refuse To Meet Emissaries

TA1109144295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 Sep 95 p A2

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben and Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry has been having a hard time coordinating meetings for a group of senior reserve officers scheduled to leave for the United States on an information campaign. A report received by the Foreign Ministry yesterday noted that Conservative and Reform synagogues in New Jersey refuse to host the government's emissaries. The Foreign Ministry will discuss the subject this week.

In recent weeks the Foreign Ministry has been receiving reports from Israeli consulates in the United States pointing to growing opposition to the peace process among Jews. One report went as far as saying that even the American Jewish Congress, which is identified with Labor, is not concealing its displeasure with its inability to counter the growing grievances in the United States with regard to terror. [passage omitted]

Every officer has been given a personal schedule for meetings with Jewish communities, the media, congressmen, and academic forums. The delegates held separate meetings yesterday with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who briefed them prior to their departure for the United States.

Peres told them: "The most important aspect of the information campaign is to stress that there is no alternative to the peace process, that the Likud does not present an alternative, that the terror is not a consequence of the peace, and that had it not been for the peace there might have been more terror."

The foreign minister added: "If it is not settled, the national conflict may turn into a religious one, with all the Muslims uniting against us. The danger of Iran's fundamentalism threatens us, and we should not provide reasons and excuses to enhance it." Peres referred to the right wing's demand to hold a referendum on any withdrawal from the West Bank. "There is no reason for it. Both Likud and Labor ran in the elections with autonomy in their party platforms. The Likud is the one that has reneged on autonomy and is not saying that the majority of the public does not want it," Peres said.

He added: "We are not just relying on peace in this peace, but also on our strong army. As far as Labor is concerned, the Jordan River is the security border, united Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, and we do not propose a population exchange." Rabin briefed the officers about all the tracks of the peace process.

Eytan Rabin adds: In their meetings with the prime minister and the foreign minister, the officers were told that they were leaving on a "state mission" rather than on behalf of Labor.

They were told that U.S. Jews are confused due to the reports coming from Israel about Yasir 'Arafat's status and credibility and the clashes between the settlers and the government. Rabin said that his foremost wish is that Israel be a Jewish state "with maximum territory under Israeli sovereignty." He noted that U.S. Jews do not know enough about the security and political agreements and that they should learn about it "from the horse's mouth."

The foreign minister said that 'Arafat should be judged by his deeds rather than by what he says. Something must be done about what he says, Peres said, "but 'Arafat should be judged by his deeds."

Rabin Leaves for Russia; Yeltsin Refuses To Meet

TA1209065695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin left on a three-day visit to Ukraine and Russia this morning. The focus of the prime minister's talks will be defense ties with both countries, and the prime minister will raise the issue of the sale of nuclear reactors to Iran in meetings with his Russian hosts. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht, who is traveling with the prime minister, reports:

[Begin Hecht recording] The Russians, and the Ukrainians even more so, have nothing to contribute to advancing the peace process in our region. Moscow has a clear strategic interest in the Middle East, but it does not correspond with the ideas being worked out in Washington and Jerusalem. In his most recent speech, Yeltsin scolded his foreign minister for traveling about the Middle East too much but did not expand.

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 12 September on page 2 carries a report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer, adding: "Russian President Boris Yeltsin rejected repeated requests from the prime minister's bureau for a meeting between the two leaders during Rabin's lightning visit to Moscow.

["Explaining its refusal, the Kremlin said Yeltsin is currently vacationing at his private country home and cannot make himself available to meet with Rabin. The Russians suggested that Rabin meet with his counterpart, Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, instead. Israeli political sources believe Yeltsin's refusal is aimed at signaling to Israel that it should cooperate more with Russia on the Middle East peace process."]

Therefore, Prime Minister Rabin will exchange polite opinions with his hosts, but most of the work during this visit will be left to Defense Minister Rabin. He will not mince words in clarifying to his hosts the gravity with which Israel views continued nuclear relations with Iran. The Russians are currently implementing their option to sell reactors to Iran. When our ambassador in Ukraine asked about the reports, a senior minister told him to relax, because there was no deal. The following day, however, the same minister officially announced that the reactors had been sold to Iran.

In the working papers the Foreign Ministry prepared for Rabin, he was advised not to believe a single word he is told. On the agenda are also several deals to upgrade weapons systems. The potential is enormous, but our dealings with partners from the former USSR have been questionable. Israel Aircraft Industries had a bad experience in the Galaxy deal with the Russians, a project which bombed when the Russians failed to implement a single undertaking. Rabin, therefore, will respect them but suspect them. [end recording]

Defecting Iraqi Military Turned Back at Border

MM1209112595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 12 Sep 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Tariq al-Mawmani and Hamad al-Jasir: "Amman Returns Iraqi Military Who Defected Across the Border With Their Weapons"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, Kuwait — An authoritative Jordanian Government source disclosed yesterday that the Jordanian military sectors along the border with Iraq "are continually encountering defections by Iraqi military personnel with their weapons. But instructions have been issued to return all these to the Iraqi side immediately and not to allow them to enter Jordanian territory."

The source told AL-HAYAH that these cases "have been frequent over recent days," and that the defectors "expressed their wish to enter and live in Jordan in view of worsening conditions there and the increasing tension, according to the military men."

The source added that the Jordanian Government "is turning down applications for asylum submitted by Iraqis residing in Amman," pointing out that these applications "are being submitted daily, and that some people are turning to UN offices in Amman to that end."

Meanwhile, a Western diplomat in Amman believes that "the partitioning of Iraq is on the cards as long as President Saddam Husayn is in power." The diplomat told AL-HAYAH that "many of those who have ambitions regarding Iraq will participate in fragmenting it."

The diplomat added that the Iraqi Army "in practice controls Baghdad only" and that "the Army no longer has any control or influence over the north and south of the capital."

Arrivals from Iraq confirmed this. They said that the Iraqi forces "control only parts of Baghdad, and the Army is not as effective and coherent as it used to be."

They added that the 10,000-strong Special Guard forces, whose commander is Qusayy, Saddam Husayn's youngest son, "are still coherent. As for the Republican Guard forces, they have begun to show signs of discontent."

Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti yesterday expressed his country's concern for "Iraq's unity and territorial integrity, and the need for these to remain under Arab sovereignty away from any hegemony."

Al-Kabariti told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that "a fragmented and weak Iraq would be more dangerous than a strong unified Iraq playing its natural role within its Arab environment and in the framework of Arab and international legitimacy."

He stressed the need for Iraq to be extricated from its predicament and for the embargo imposed on it to be lifted, especially as the Iraqi people are experiencing a real tragedy." [no opening quotation mark] [passage omitted]

Opposition Criticizes Official Statement on Iraq

JN1009144895 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Sep 95 p 20

[FBIS Translated Text] The 11 Jordanian opposition parties have criticized Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti's statement on the Jordanian stand toward sisterly Iraq. These parties said the statement conflicts with the official and popular pan-Arab action, which seeks to promote Arab solidarity in order to protect the nation and entrench its steadfastness and impregnability.

In a statement by their official spokesman, the opposition parties expressed their conviction that the fraternal Iraqi people, who are unjustly besieged, will have the final say in all that pertains to their self-determination and their country.

The opposition parties are: The Islamic Action Front Party, the Pan-Arab Action Front Party, the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Progressive Arab Ba'th Party, the Democratic Progressive Party, the Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party-Hashd, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party, the Constitutional Jordanian Arab Front Party, and the Popular Unity Party.

Source: No 'Hurry' To Restore Kuwait Ties

JN1209090295 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 12 Sep 95 pp 1, 17

[FBIS Translated Text] A ranking Jordanian source said the date for the meeting between Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad has not been set yet, although reports note the possibility of holding the meeting on the sidelines of the Arab foreign ministers conference, which will be held in Cairo on 20 September.

Diplomatic sources said the Jordanian Government is not in a hurry to restore Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations without a true mutual desire for a new starting point in bilateral relations.

In a statement to AL-ASWAQ, a Jordanian diplomat ruled out the possibility of a visit to Kuwait by al-Kabariti in the near future before the Jordanian Foreign Ministry sees some practical Kuwaiti measures, such as restoration of direct postal and telecommunications services and the resumption of air flights between the two countries, which are measures that concern the Jordanian and Kuwaiti peoples.

The Jordanian diplomat recalled the case of the Tunisian foreign minister whose recent visit to Kuwait was accompanied by an article in the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' headlined "You Are Not Welcome."

Al-Kabariti Denounces Libyan Deportations

JN1209082095 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 12 Sep 95 pp 1, 17

[Report by 'Arif Nasir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said the deportation of Arab workers from Libya is strange, denounced, and completely unjustified.

In the first official Jordanian reaction to the deportation of Arab workers from Libya, al-Kabariti said the Libyan Government decision conflicts with the most basic principles of international legitimacy and Arab values.

He said the Jordanian Government does not have enough information on the number of Jordanian passport-bearers who will be forced to return to Jordan as a result of the recent Libyan measures.

Al-Kabariti denied that there is any problem concerning the return of those who have Jordanian passports, whether permanent or temporary passports.

As for the entry to Jordan by holders of other laissez-passers who were deported from Libya, he said the instructions currently implemented by the Interior Ministry will be applied to them.

The Libyan authorities began a broad campaign of expelling the Arab workers for unjustified reasons. It was said that the deportation was decided on following a purely political position related to developments in the peace process.

Twelve Palestinians Refused Entry

NC1109202695 Paris AFP in English 1951 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Sallum, Egypt, Sept 11 (AFP) — Jordan refused entry on Monday [11 September] to 12 Palestinians thrown out of Libya, officials at this Egyptian border post told AFP.

The 12 were part of a group of 200 Palestinians who crossed the border into Egypt on Sunday, saying they had been rounded up by Libyan police and forced out of the country.

Jordan refused them entry because they held papers for entering the Gaza Strip, said officials with the Egyptian bus company that transported the group from al-Sallum to the Egyptian Red Sea port of Nuwaybi'.

Amman accepted the remaining 188 from the group who had permits for Jordan, the officials said. A ferry connects Nuwaybi' to the Jordanian port of Aqaba.

The Palestinians who were refused entry requested that the bus company return them to Libya where they could make arrangements to travel to Rafah on the Egyptian border with Gaza, the officials said.

Libya began ejecting Palestinians early this month after leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi urged Arab nations to force their resident Palestinians to return to Gaza and the West Bank in order to prove the "failure" of the self-rule deal between Israel and the PLO.

Nine Palestinians arrived at al-Sallum late Monday, requesting permission to cross, border sources said, without specifying if the request had been granted or refused.

Meanwhile, some 60 Palestinians expelled from Libya have spent six days camped at the Egyptian side of the Rafah border crossing, relatives said.

They have visitor's permits issued by Israel to enter the Strip, but the Jewish authorities have refused them entry, fearing they will stay permanently after being thrown out by Libya, they added.

Lebanon, meanwhile, has closed shipping routes to Libya and imposed strict new entry visa restrictions on Palestinians expelled by Tripoli. A third of the 30,000 Palestinians living in Libya have Lebanese travel documents.

PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat condemned the expulsions Monday as a "crime."

Israeli Restitution of Pre-1948 Assets Demanded

TA1009190695 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 Sep 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan demands that Israel deliver to the absentees property receiver all assets that were owned by Jordanian nationals before the 1948 war. Our correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports from Amman that a message in this spirit has been relayed to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, but Israel has not replied yet. The Jordanian claim may reach hundreds of millions of dollars.

Prime Minister on Libyan Expulsion of Palestinians

NC1109195595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri has described the Libyan decision to expel Palestinians to Lebanon as a worrying decision. He added: We do not have to follow any decision made by Libya. He stressed that Lebanon's supreme interests are above any other consideration. He emphasized that the decision to bar Palestinians from entering Lebanon [without a visa] will be very strictly implemented, adding that it is natural to coordinate with Syria on the expulsion issue.

Israeli Planes Stage Mock Raids, Draw Ground Fire

NC1109113695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israeli military aircraft this morning staged mock raids over al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah, releasing chaff into the air. Lebanese Army anti-aircraft guns opened up on the enemy planes. [passage omitted]

Israeli planes this afternoon staged mock raids over Tyre, drawing fire from the Lebanese Army.

Three 'Terrorists' Said Killed by Israeli Troops

TA1109181995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Three terrorists were killed in clashes with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] troops in south Lebanon. Our correspondents Karmela Menashe and Moti 'Eden report that this morning a terrorist squad infiltrated the Tallusah area in the security zone. Noticing the terrorists, the IDF force gave pursuit and encircled the squad. Two terrorists were killed in the ensuing short-range exchange of gunfire.

Hizballah men from the villages of Majdal Slim, Qabrikha, and Shaqra attempted to assist the terrorists by firing mortars and rockets at the IDF unit and at IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions in the area.

IDF troops continued to search the area, encountering another squad several hours later. Another terrorist was killed in the course of the IDF's pursuit of the squad. [passage omitted]

Israelis Reportedly Shell 'Resistance' in South

NC1109163995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to security sources, clashes broke out between resistance members and an Israeli force, which tried to advance toward Wadi al-Saluqi this afternoon. Meanwhile, the occupation forces used long-range artillery to bombard Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, and Wadi al-Saluqi.

Elsewhere, the areas of Iqlim al-Tuffah, al-Jabal al-Akhdar, and 'Arab Salim came under intermittent Israeli shelling from the occupation positions in al-Zaffatah.

Israeli Jets Raid Southern Area, Fire Missiles

NC1109165695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli warplanes raided Majdal Silm this afternoon. Security forces said that Israeli fighter planes fired four air-to-surface missiles at Tallat Mjdal Silm. Columns of smoke were seen billowing from the targeted area but there have been no immediate reports on casualties.

'Resistance' Issues Statement on Retaliation

NC1209073995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Reports from the south say the Israeli forces bombarded several areas in al-Nabatiyah, Iqlim al- Tuffah, and western al-Biqa' last night and this morning. The Israeli forces stepped up their aggression in the past few hours. Three people were hurt in Majdal Silm. Two Israeli helicopters raked Wadi al-Saluqi and Wadi Hajar, the outskirts of Qabrikha, and the valleys near Majdal Silm, Shaqra, and Bra'shit. Israeli military aircraft raided the outskirts of Majdal Silm.

The Israeli forces pounded 'Ayta al-Jabal and Wadi al-Qaysiyah. An Israeli force advanced toward Wadi al-Saluqi but encountered a group of Resistance fighters, which clashed with it. The clashes coincided with a violent Israeli bombardment at the scene of the clash. [passage omitted]

The Israeli forces pounded Kafra, Yatar, Haris, Bra'shit, 'Ayta al-Jabal, the outskirts of Tibnin, the old quarter in al-Qantarah, Tulin, and al-Ghanduriyah. Israeli aircraft staged mock raids over these areas. The Israeli warplanes also overflew Iqlim al-Tuffah. The Iqlim al-Tuffah areas came under fierce military barrage. According to NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondents in the south, over 400 shells landed in central sector villages. Israeli helicopters overflew the south all day yesterday. [passage omitted]

Retaliating for these attacks, Amal said groups of its fighters attacked Israeli and Agent [South Lebanese Army] positions in Bayt Yahun and in the Haddatha and Bra'shit hills with machine guns and rockets, inflicting casualties among the personnel manning them.

Another Resistance group attacked the Israeli post in Tallusah and clashed with its personnel with machine guns and rockets. The group then attacked an enemy convoy travelling from Tallat al-'Abbad to the Tallusah post. A vehicle was seen on fire.

The Islamic Resistance said the Resistance fire support unit pounded enemy artillery positions in Muhaybib, Mays al-Jabal, and al-'Abbad, which were directing a heavy artillery barrage at the villages of Shaqra, Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, and Bra'shit. Anti- aircraft units opened fire on helicopters evacuating casualties from Wadi al-Saluqi.

The Islamic Resistance released a statement saying: Retaliating for the continuing Zionist aggression that wounded people and damaged homes, the fire support unit pounded a Zionist assembly point and destroyed a tank, killing or wounding its crew.

Fatah Official Found Beaten to Death in South Camp

NC1209085995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The body of Ma'ruf Abu-Hamadah, Fatah official in charge of the al-Rashidiyah camp, was found dead on the seashore near the camp this morning. The body showed signs of having been beaten with sharp instruments. Policemen went to the scene and began investigations into the reasons for the crime.

Golan Sovereignty, 'Full Peace' Discussed

JN0709201195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1134 GMT 7 Sep 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: The overwhelming majority of ambassadors to Israel have boycotted these hostile Israeli parades held under the headline: "Jerusalem 3,000." This boycotting by these ambassadors provides hard evidence that the international community's rejection of Israel's allegations regarding Jerusalem has not weakened. On the contrary, this rejection is still as strong as it has been since 1947 when the international community rejected any official or governmental Israeli presence in Jerusalem.

On 5 September, the international community reiterated its firm stand when the majority of ambassadors to Israel boycotted Israel's parades which attempted to obliterate the Arab identity of Jerusalem.

Through these parades and allegations Israel only wanted to emphasize its intentions that it will not adhere to UN and Security Council resolutions whether on Jerusalem or any other issue addressed by the peace process involving the Arabs and Israelis. Israel's violation of international resolutions is a concrete manifestation of the Israeli intransigence which caused the peace process on the Syrian track to reach this situation, which President al-Asad described as dormant. The state of dormancy plaguing the peace process on the Syrian track is definitely a result of Israeli intransigence. No party in the world, other than Israel, contends this fact. However, Israel attempts to deny this fact and to lay the blame on Syria for the peace process obstruction or dormancy.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres tries to shirk Israel's responsibility through various pretexts and through what he called Israel's political map. Thus he uses the extremists, the rabbis' parties, and settlers gangs as a pretext and claims that these groups are the mainstay of Israel's political map and that they reject withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and thus reject withdrawal from the Golan. Other pretexts include that any peace agreement on the Golan should be submitted to the Knesset or put to vote in a general referendum.

Syria's sovereignty on the Golan and the unity of the Syrian lands are unnegotiable. Thus neither the Israeli Knesset nor Israeli society has anything to do with it. Moreover, Security Council resolutions on the occupied Golan and occupied Lebanese and Arab territories are resolutions that had been adopted by the international community to ensure the return of rights in implementation of the UN charter, which prohibits the occupation of the lands of others by force.

Israel wants to overlook the terms of reference of the peace process through bypassing international resolutions regulating this process. This is an introductory step to canceling all international resolutions pertinent to the Middle East question adopted in 1947. This is not a deduction. It is rather based on clear Israeli practices in this regard, including the partial agreements Israel had signed with some parties — agreements in which Israel sowed the seeds of explosion, not peace.

Syria wants full withdrawal in return for full peace, that is, Israel's withdrawal back to 4 June 1967 lines, and security arrangements that observe the security of the two parties and not the security of one party at the expense of the other party. Syria also rejects any existence of Israeli occupation under whatever title.

What Syria seeks is what the entire international community seeks. Therefore, nations and influential figures announced that Syria is the key to peace, that there will be no peace without Syria, and that the just peace Syria seeks in the Middle East is a major component of world peace and the stability of world interests in this part of the world. The peace Syria seeks would be based on international legitimacy and a unanimous international desire for a peace that secures rights, security, and dignity for all.

Paper Urges Exposure of Israeli 'Crimes'

JN0909122495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Sep 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, TISHRIN calls on the international community to shoulder its responsibilities toward exposing Israel's crimes. The paper says that the Rabin government is trying to cover up the resounding scandal of the massacres committed by its army during the 1956 and 1967 aggressions.

TISHRIN says that opening the file of those scandals will lead to exposing the major responsibilities of the then military officials, who are now ranking officials in this government, led by Rabin himself.

TISHRIN reviews the acts committed by the internationally wanted former Israeli prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir. The paper stresses that the exposed crimes do not surprise those who know Israel's hostile reality.

TISHRIN says since the establishment of the Zionist entity, Israeli officials have been persistently feeding hatred against the Arabs and raising their children on hatred. In their daily lives and practices, the Zionist settlers reflect this spiteful racism when they demand the expulsion of Arab inhabitants from their homes and when they confiscate their lands, damage their crops, and burn their homes and property.

TISHRIN says that settler Baruch Goldstein, who committed the al-Ibrahimi mosque massacre, reflects the essence of Israel's aggressive reality and nature. It says that it is this aggressive nature which prevents the establishment of a just, comprehensive, and genuine peace in the Middle East. Israel covets Arab territory and wants to dominate Arab resources. Having displaced the Palestinian people and caused them untold tragedies, Israel sees nothing in them but a reserve of cheap labor if need be.

TISHRIN says that it is an illusion to believe that Israel will carry out an objective investigation into the killing of Arab prisoners. At the end of its editorial, the paper says that the international bodies concerned about the fate of prisoners and detainees should embark on such an investigation to expose Israel's brutal practices which constitute the most dangerous forms of terrorism.

Papers on Israeli 'Deception,' Settlers' 'Crimes'

JN1109153695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 11 Sep 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH today comments on the peace process, asserting that Syria has clearly and openly declared its position on this process. Syria has reiterated its absolute commitment to implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy, which call for the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace. Israel, on the other hand, has not yet declared any form of commitment to these resolutions. The opposite is true. Israel is using all methods to undermine everything that relates to international legitimacy, since this is in its interest and because departing from international legitimacy allows Israel to achieve its long-term objectives, according to its own vision.

AL-BA'TH says Israel wants a peace similar to the one it achieved with the Palestinian and Jordanian sides. To achieve this, it is continuing to pursue a policy of deception and maneuvering, thinking that this could allow it to achieve its objectives. The reality, however, is completely different. Syria, which rejects Israel's policy of maneuvering, is determined to achieve a just and comprehensive peace that ends occupation and restores rights. The policy of maneuvering and deception practiced by Israel is exposed. Anyone who thinks that Israel might achieve any of its objectives is mistaken. In addition, as a result of this Israeli policy the peace process became dormant. Certainly, the status of the peace process will not change unless Israel abandons its illusions and stands and clearly adheres to the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially in relation to full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines. This is a basic condition to make the peace process succeed and achieve its objectives.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the region is not a puzzle. Everything is crystal clear. True peace has its conditions and requirements. Commitment to these conditions and requirements means that peace will be at hand. The paper asks: Will Israel do that or is it planning something else? In any event, Israel is greatly mistaken if it believes that it can achieve everything it wants at the expense of others.

TISHRIN comments on the criminal, provocative actions carried out by the Israeli settlers in the occupied Arab territories. The settlers broke into a school, attacked girls, and destroyed school furniture. They also broke into a Palestinian home and killed a youth in front of his mother.

The paper says the Israeli Government is not doing anything to bridle the attacks of the settlers. In fact, it is encouraging the settlers to go further in their crimes. The paper cites a statement by Israeli Interior Minister Ehud Baraq, who is close to Rabin, that he does not discriminate between Palestinians at all, that they are all terrorists in his eyes, and that the problem is that they exist next to the Israelis.

The paper adds: Observers took this statement to be an implicit, if not explicit, appeal for the settlers to commit more crimes and massacres so the Palestinians will be forced to leave. The Israeli Government, which is not doing anything to help the Palestinians, is doing all it can to besiege them and make their life more difficult in all areas, including work and travel.

TISHRIN concludes: The practices of Israel and its settlers in the occupied Arab territories conflict flagrantly with the foundations of a just peace, as stipulated in the Security Council resolutions. These practices also embody the ugliest kinds of terrorism. No matter what peace cover they use, these practices cannot advance the region toward peace and stability. They will only complicate matters. The increasing crimes of the settlers reveal the reality of Israel's black intentions.

Afghanistan

Turkish Embassy To Secure Pakistan's Kabul Interests

LD1109104195 Tehran IRNA in English
1018 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 11, IRNA — The Turkish embassy in Kabul will secure Pakistan's interests in the Afghan capital following the attack on Pakistani embassy in the city.

Seyyed Suleyman Shah in charge of Afghanistan's embassy in Islamabad told IRNA here Monday [11 September] that Pakistan's foreign minister has sent an official note to the Turkish embassy in Kabul giving it full authority to secure Pakistan's interests in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani embassy was attacked by a group of people last Wednesday leaving one dead and 26 injured. Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Sunday announced that Islamabad would not cut off relations with Kabul but would transfer its embassy to a safer place. The Pakistani embassy was also attacked two years ago and remained closed for more than one year.

Foreign Minister Departs for Saudi Arabia

LD0909194595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Esteemed Dr. Najibollah Lafra'i, minister of state for foreign affairs, left Kabul this morning for Jeddah at the head of a delegation.

Esteemed Lafra'i will take part in the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] conference that is going to be held in Saudi Arabia in the near future. He will travel to Tashkent to take part in security and cooperation seminar that will be opened in Uzbekistan.

Taleban Said Favoring 'Brotherly' Ties With Iran

LD1109121195 Tehran IRNA in English
1145 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept. 11, IRNA — A representative of Afghan student militias known as Taleban on Monday [11 September] said the Afghan theology students favored having brotherly and friendly relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"The wrong impression suggesting that the Talebans are against Iran is the work of enemies and those opposed to Islam," Mowlavi 'Abdol Rahman said in an interview with IRNA in Peshawar Monday. He added "Iran is the only country, whose government has been established on the basis of the Islamic revolution. The Taleban will consolidate their relations with Tehran according to Islamic principles."

Moreover, 'Abdol Rahman rejected a claim raised by a Taleban spokesman Mollah Aid Mohammad Wahedyar that Iran interfered in Afghanistan's internal affairs by taking the side of defeated persons there. The claim was published in the Pashtu-language daily 'WAHDAT' in Peshawar on Sunday. However, 'Abdol Rahman said such a statement made by the Taleban spokesman was merely his personal view. He also denied a rumour that there had been a secret compromise between Governor of Herat Province Isma'il Khan and the Taleban group, saying Isma'il Khan had fought the Taleban to the last moment.

Hekmatyar: No One Can Govern in Kabul Without Me

MM1109125795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
9 Sep 95 pp 1,6

[Report by Samir al-Sa'dawi in London, Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan in Peshawar, and Ra'afat Yahya in Islamabad: "Hekmatyar Tells AL-HAYAH: Without Me, No Peace for Any Ruler in Kabul"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Informed Afghan sources told AL-HAYAH yesterday that the Taleban movement has started to assemble its forces around the capital Kabul in preparation for storming it, and has sent some 2,500 fighters from its base in Qandahar to the Maydan area, west of Kabul.

This emerged during Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] leader Golboddin Hekmatyar's disclosure, in an interview with AL-HAYAH, that there is undeclared agreement and coordination between his party and the [Taleban] movement to topple President Borhanoddin Rabbani's regime. He said that this coordination had led to the success of Taleban's recent military movements and stressed that "No one can govern in Kabul without me."

Meanwhile, in New Delhi, hundreds of Afghan residents in India demonstrated in front of the Pakistani Embassy, shouting slogans condemning "direct Pakistani interference in Afghan internal affairs." The demonstrators, President Rabbani's supporters, accused Pakistani intelligence services of involvement in Taleban's military operations, which recently led to the capture of the city of Herat by the movement's fighters.

Hekmatyar said in his interview with AL-HAYAH that "in the event of the forces opposed to the Kabul regime uniting, it would take only two days to topple President Rabbani." The Hezb-e Eslami leader warned all Afghan groups not to ignore him, saying: "In the 27 years I have spent in prison, in exile, or on the battlefield, no Kabul government has been able to govern the country safely without me. All I want is to establish a genuine Islamic government. I am ready for genuine brotherhood and understanding with everyone."

Hekmatyar arrived in Peshawar at midnight the night before last, and intends to meet Pakistani officials to give an impetus to the coordination efforts between him and the Taleban movement.

The former Afghan premier added: "I have ordered my followers and the field commanders to cooperate with the Taleban movement to strike at the government's strongholds. We also urged north Afghanistan to ease the pressure on the west and this led to the capture of Herat and other cities."

In his interview with AL-HAYAH, the Hezb-e Eslami leader made a proposal to resolve the Afghan crisis which includes "establishing a provisional government of competent figures acceptable to all, on the condition that the government is established on nonpartisan lines and that ministerial portfolios are not distributed to the parties."

In his view, this government should announce an immediate cease- fire after taking control of Kabul, and should call for general elections with all parties' consent. [passage omitted]

Islamic Army Forces See Gains in Balkh Province

LD1009174195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Army forces have captured more villages in the provinces of Balkh and Samangan. Safid Kotal and its trenches have been completely cleared of militiamen.

Quoting armed forces' sources, BAKHTAR reports that mojahedin and Islamic Army forces captured the regions of Zeraki and Sorkhabi in the vicinity of Dar-e Suf district in the course of a mopping-up operations carried out this morning. The militiamen have also lost control of the villages of Akhta Khanah and Wakil Nezam in Sholgara District, Balkh Province.

During today's operations, dozens of militiamen were killed and six bodies still remain on the battlefield. Ten injured militiamen have also been captured by mojahedin.

The Islamic Army forces seized a large militia ammunition depot in the Zeraki region and are advancing towards the village of Samarbeg in Sholgara District.

According to another report Safid Kotal and its extremely strategic trenches were completely cleared of militiamen. The capture of Safid Kotal is considered a heavy blow because the positions located in the pass are strategically important.

Acting Prime Minister Ahmadzai Meets Chief Editors

LD1009194095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Acting Prime Minister Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, today met the chief editors of the free and state-run newspapers, journals, and publications in the prime minister's office.

Quoting the prime minister's press office, BAKHTAR reports that Ahmadzai specified the work direction for government publicity in the country's mass media. He spoke in detail about the disinformation in some publications and the adverse effect of not respecting the "the purity of the pen" in the press and discussed the false information printed in the UNITY journal published in Pakistan. He asked the chief editors and journalists to expose those types of anti-Afghan and hostile propaganda by a number of publications and reflect the objective realities of the country.

Bangladesh

Iranian Minister Pays Official Visit to Dhaka

Discusses Oil Refinery Proposal

LD0909205895 Tehran IRNA in English 2034 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Sept. 9, IRNA — Bangladesh has suggested that Iran build an oil refinery with a capacity of 60,000 barrels per day in Bangladesh.

The proposal was made to Iran's visiting deputy foreign minister for Asia-Pacific affairs, Ala'eddin Borujerdi, here Saturday [9 September] by Bangladesh's acting Foreign Minister Farouq Subhan [name as received].

Bangladesh has also proposed that Iran help that country with prospecting operations for oil and refining of oil and gas.

The country now has an oil refinery with a capacity of 1.4 tons in Chittagong port.

Borujerdi is heading an Iranian delegation to Dhaka for talks with the senior officials of Bangladesh.

The second round of talks between the Iranian envoy and senior government officials of Bangladesh is to continue here Monday.

The Iranian envoy arrived in Dhaka at the conclusion of his visit to Vietnam. He is to leave for Manila on a similar mission later on.

Borujerdi who is here on the threshold of the scheduled visit to Dhaka by Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam

Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Friday reviewed with Bangladeshi ministers drafts of agreements to be signed by the two countries later this year.

Iran and Bangladesh have agreed to establish regular flight services between Tehran and Dhaka as well as a shipping line between the ports of the two countries.

Bangladesh has also offered to buy steel and tar from Iran.

Iran has agreed to offer surface transport facilities to Bangladesh for transit of goods to the Central Asian countries.

The Iranian envoy, Borujerdi, said to IRNA that a railroad now being built to link the holy city of Mashhad in northeastern Iran to Sarakhs on the Iran-Turkmenistan border, would upon completion, link the Asian railway to the Central Asian countries from the Persian Gulf.

Iran and Bangladesh have also agreed to enter into an agreement for checking drug trafficking.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani is to visit Bangladesh in October.

Meets With Prime Minister

LD1009142795 Tehran IRNA in English 1409 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Sept. 10, IRNA — Bangladeshi Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Saturday [9 September] termed as "excellent" Tehran-Dhaka relations and expressed optimism that Iran would seize current opportunities for making investments in her country.

Khaleda Zia, speaking to visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and the Pacific Ala'eddin Borujerdi, expressed hope that the upcoming visit to Bangladesh of President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani would lead to consolidation of bilateral ties.

She added that a delegation, headed by Bangladeshi Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Khondaker Mosharraf Hussain, is to visit Tehran to examine ways of expanding mutual cooperation in energy field.

Moreover, she said that another delegation was to leave here for Tehran soon for talks on establishment of direct air link between Iran and Bangladesh.

Borujerdi is here at the head of delegation to make preparations for forthcoming state visit of President Rafsanjani to Dhaka.

Iranian Official's Visit Viewed

BK1109092795 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangladesh-Iran bilateral ties and cooperative [word indistinct] received a new boost in the coming days, if the [words indistinct] agreement the two sides have now reached for diversifying the areas of their trade relations. The agreement was reached at the official talks held between the two sides during the current visit of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ala'eddin Borujerdi to Dhaka. The talks covered the entire gamut of bilateral relations. The two sides have also reviewed and identified new areas for bilateral cooperation that include, among others, the introduction of air services between Dhaka and Tehran, antinarcotics measures, and routing Bangladesh's trade with the Central Asian Republics via Iran.

The bilateral exchange of views for the promotion and strengthening of mutual cooperation between Dhaka and Tehran at the talks proved to be very useful. The two sides have agreed to bolster bilateral relations through active cooperation under the joint commission in various fields including trade, manpower, employment, investment, joint venture, and shipping. On the occasion of the visit of the Iranian deputy foreign minister to Dhaka, the officials of the different ministries of the two countries have also held separate joint meetings. Such meetings have [words indistinct] incorporated to devising new avenues of cooperation. At the official-level talks in Dhaka, the two sides have considered in detail the reports submitted by the respective ministries of the two countries for further strengthening Dhaka-Tehran bilateral relations. Such discussions have produced a close identity of views and also a strong commonality of interests. This augurs well for diversifying the sense of bilateral cooperation for the mutual benefit between the two countries.

In view of the existing friendship and understanding between Dhaka and Tehran, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has expressed her bold optimism about the multidimensional benefits of a stronger cooperation between the two countries. Visiting Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ala'eddin Borujerdi called on the prime minister at her office on Saturday [9 September]. On the occasion, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia described the existing bilateral relationship between Dhaka and Tehran as an excellent one. Befittingly, she has stressed the need for strengthening further areas of bilateral cooperation between the two countries, particularly in areas of trade and investment. She has noted that the investment opportunities and facilities in Bangladesh offer a bright prospect for Iranian investments and joint ventures here. On its part, Bangladesh has always been in favor of strengthening its solidarity with the Islamic ummah [community].

It may be recalled here that late President Ziaur Rahman had visited Tehran at the very crucial stage of Iran-Iraq war in a bid to end that war. This had reflected Dhaka's firm belief and commitment to the greater unity and solidarity of the ummah. The latest initiative by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia for holding immediate summit of the Organization of Islamic Conference—OIC—on Bosnia to voice help is indicative of Dhaka's firm commitment in the welfare of the ummah. The visiting Iranian deputy foreign minister has described Begum Zia's initiative as a timely one. He has welcomed the initiative. Iran has already communicated its positive response to this initiative.

Meanwhile, the forthcoming visit of Iranian president 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani would be considered yet another major development for Dhaka-Tehran bilateral relations. Bangladesh-Iran ties have been progressing fast, and the visit of the Iranian president would further cement and widen such ties. Bangladesh also looks forward to receiving the Iranian president, who is expected to come to Dhaka some time next month. A number of agreements on expanding cooperation between the two countries are likely to be signed on that occasion. The forthcoming state visit by the Iranian president to Bangladesh would thus help bolster bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Ruling Party, Opposition Assailed for 'Negativism'

BK1009145195 Dhaka THE FINANCIAL EXPRESS in English 5 Sep 95 p 5

[Editorial: "Blinding Political Alley"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE politics is fast moving on a confrontational course. Negativism is strong with either side of the current political divide. Thus, the mainstream opposition parties—the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami—have in tandem, called for pushing forward their moot demand — immediate dissolution of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad (JS) [parliament] and holding national elections under a "neutral" caretaker government." [quotation marks as published]

After a countrywide, uninterrupted 32-hour-long hartal (general strike) that ended at 2 pm last Sunday [3 September], fresh programmes have now come for a three-day-long agitational actions that include, among others, a dawn-to-dusk hartal tomorrow (Wednesday) in Dhaka city. All available indications suggest that the political mercury will be further heated up this month through escalation of "agitational" activities.

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is still "inflexible" in its stand, claiming its constitutional right to govern on the basis of the mandate that it got for a five-year term in the last general elections in February, 1991. It considers the opposition core demand for a "neutral" caretaker government as ultra vires of the constitution. Also, there is no scope at this stage for any constitutional amendment, with most opposition seats in the parliament vacant. The BNP does not see any positive element in the opposition demand as it tends to look at it, as being negative in nature, if not "inimical" to the constitutional process.

On the other hand, the mainstream opposition parties have charged the government with violations of the constitutional provisions on the ground that it has been "playing with the people's voting rights". This has been an obvious reference to the by-election that was held in Magura in early 1994. And later on, it set in train a series of events which, de facto, paralysed the functioning of parliament. And lately, opposition leaders have accused the ruling party of "conducting an illegal and fragmented parliament in an autocratic fashion". Such accusations have come as a pointed reference to the developments that have so far taken place on the polity since en masse resignation of the opposition members from the JS in December last year. The mainstream opposition parties find the response of the ruling BNP to their proposal for a "neutral" caretaker government as utterly negative and even as a "ploy" to perpetuate itself on to power through, what they have alleged, "managed" polls.

Therefore, negativism in politics is strong on both sides. That is exactly how most ordinary hapless citizens—the silent majority —view the developments in the country's political kaleidoscope. This negativism is the root of the crisis. Hence, suspicion and distrust go deep into the nation's political marrow. Such a situation is neither propitious for a democratic polity nor congenial to accelerated economic growth. The nation needs both democratic polity and faster economic progress. It can in no way afford to fritter away its most precious moments in groping ways, in a blind alley for long, for blending of both. This is more so at a time when it must make efforts for frogleaping in the transitional course of its economy for the coming millennium.

This paper does not take positions with either side of the current political divide. Yet it considers that the divide, on grounds of stubbornness of the ruling party or the old-fashioned obstinacy of the opposition or a combination of both, is an artifact. It serves the narrow-range goals of a few. In no way, it suits the wider-focused interests of the silent majority. Viewed in this context, the political negativism of either side is an antithesis to democratic polity. The large majority in this country stand for a positive approach to politics for taking the nation forward. It is time that they assert their voice in favour of a synthesis with strength and courage. Certainly, this synthesis will become possible when the major political players, again irrespective of positions, rise above their narrow self-interests. Only then, they can help strengthen the process that can facilitate the successful fusion of twin national goals—unalloyed representative and effective governance and syngerisation of the growth momentum for an early escape from the poverty-trap.

India

Spokesman Denies Army Action To Rescue Hostages

BK1209005695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government is in constant touch with the abductors of the four foreign tourists and trying to persuade them to release the captives. This was stated by an official spokesman in Srinagar yesterday. He strongly denied reports that there was any move to launch an army operation to rescue the abducted the tourists.

Meanwhile, the state government has assured a delegation of representatives of the BBC in South Asia that the incident of the parcel bomb attack on last Thursday [7 September] in the BBC office in Srinagar will be investigated fully. Local newspapers in Srinagar have suspended their publication for three days from yesterday to protest against the incident.

Radio Views Outcome of Mukherjee's Japan Visit

BK1109144595 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 11 Sep 95

[Commentary by Shastri Ramachandran]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The five-day visit of India's external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, to Japan has raised the level of dialogue between the two countries, as well as reactivated discussion on issues which were not given the prominence they deserved. The visit itself, the first by a high-ranking minister of the Government of India after 1992, is a landmark and signifies a new vigor to bilateral relations.

India and Japan have enjoyed strong economic and business ties, and Japanese investments and collaboration have always been in the fast lane since the process of liberalization and reforms initiated by the government. Apart from industrial ventures, the Japanese presence has been strong in the Indian economic scene, as that country is by far India's largest aid donor. But political relations have not kept pace with the rapid growth of economic cooperation, and there has been a growing mutual urge to lend greater political content to the strong bonds that had endured between the two countries. It is in this context that Mr. Mukherjee's visit needs to be viewed.

As the Indian ambassador to Japan, Mr. Kuldip Sahadev, remarked at the start of Mr. Mukherjee's program, the visit marks the end of a drought. During his visit, from September the 6th to September the 10th, Mr. Mukherjee established contact with every important personality and section interested in India. He met the prime minister, Mr. Tomiichi Murayama; the foreign minister, Mr. Yohei Kono; and the minister for international trade and industry, Mr. Hashimoto; apart from a host of other leaders in business and politics. Mr. Mukherjee also extended an invitation on behalf of the president of India to the Japanese emperor, Mr. Akihito, to visit India. Though the emperor had visited India as crown prince in 1961, a visit by him as imperial head of Japan would be a grand gesture, particularly in 1997 when Japanese industry would be participating as country partner in India's premier trade fair.

Mr. Mukherjee's objective was to make India-Japanese relationship more extensive and active, particularly on the international plane. Though there are no differences between the two countries, the similarity in their approach to the issues of the day have not led to an identity of views toward joint intervention for greater impact. A beginning has been made in this direction during Mr. Mukherjee's talks with India and Japan agreeing on closer cooperation to emerge as a factor in regional as well as global peace and stability.

Mr. Mukherjee has also reiterated India's interest in membership of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation grouping. Though there is a moratorium on new members till 1996, the Government of India expects Japan to favorably advocates its case. The two sides agreed that their regular consultations should be extended so that they cover Asia and not just their respective regions. Japan was responsive to the Indian stand on the nuclear question that any comprehensive test ban treaty should be a complete and nondiscriminatory and not entrench the right of a select group of nations to possess, produce, test, and stockpile nuclear weapons.

Reform of the United Nations was also an important focus of the talks. Japan, like India, is keen on a permanent membership of the UN Security Council for a larger political role in world affairs. The Japanese have taken a strong position against the recent Chinese and French nuclear tests, and Japan's ministers have taken a leading role in the protest against the French decision to revive nuclear testing.

These are issues on which identity of views between India and Japan led to a great impact on the international community. Efforts toward this is a new development in the India-Japan relationship, which has assumed a new political dimension with a focus on issues of peace and security, particularly in Asia.

Bhutto Claim of Rape as 'Weapon of War' Rejected

BK0809062895 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 6 Sep 95 p 8

[Editorial: "Preposterous charge"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Pakistan Prime Minister, Ms Benazir Bhutto's fulminations against India at the World Conference on Women in Beijing have not come as a surprise. Pakistan never misses an opportunity to paint India in the darkest possible hues at international gatherings. Often, the very presence of Pakistan at such conferences appear to be aimed at settling scores with India rather than taking part in the deliberations. This time Ms Bhutto has accused India of practising rape as "a weapon of war and an instrument of ethnic cleansing" in Jammu and Kashmir while drawing a parallel with Bosnia. The charge is too preposterous to merit a detailed rebuttal. As in the past when Pakistan received a drubbing for its bid to internationalise the Kashmir issue, this time too the response from the gathering at Beijing would not be any different. The world knows only too well how Pakistan has been trying to foment trouble in Kashmir by aiding and abetting terrorism. Even as she was venting her spleen against India in Beijing, her minions were busy detonating a powerful bomb in downtown Srinagar killing 12 people and injuring 15 others. Of course, she could not have blamed the terrorists in any way as it would have robbed the raison d'etre of her Government's support for them which alone helps the subversives to commit such inhuman acts as killing an innocent foreign tourist and holding four as hostages.

Rather than indulge in her favourite pastime, Ms Bhutto should have spoken about how the Pak-sponsored militants have been using every trick of their murderous trade against those who challenge them. It is no secret who are responsible for the near 'ethnic cleansing' in the Kashmir Valley that forced the Pundits [brahmans], who had been living there for centuries, to flee from the State. The world is also aware that the Indian army has an enviable reputation, being regarded as one of the most disciplined forces, and that any misconduct will evoke swift deterrent action. Besides, India has set up a Human Rights Commission to ensure that no transgressions take place. What about Pakistan with its dismal human rights record? The Muhajirs in Karachi bear witness to how Pakistan has been using officially-sponsored terror to subjugate them, making a mockery of the two-nation theory which forms the basis of Pakistan's national identity, and which persuades it to wage its proxy war against India in Kashmir. Instead of shedding crocodile tears over Kashmir Ms Bhutto would do well to focus her attention on her own strife-torn province.

Navy Warships Said in China on 'Goodwill Visit'

BK0909114795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two Indian warships are in the Chinese city of Shanghai on a three-day goodwill visit. It is the first such visit by the Indian Navy since 1958. The INS Khanjar, a guided missile corvette, and INS Saryu, an offshore battle vessel, were greeted by Chinese naval commander Admiral Zhang Lianzhong on their arrival yesterday. During the visit, the Indian sailors will have friendly contacts with their Chinese counterparts at the Shanghai naval base.

Defense Committee Urges Continued Missile Program

BK1109144995 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 4 Sep 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] New Delhi 3 Sep — The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defense says that India has no option but to continue its missile program. In a report, the committee says that in view of the enhancement of China's missile capabilities and its assistance to Pakistan in this field, it has become imperative for India to redefine its defense preparedness.

The report says that China is emerging as a major missile and nuclear power. It has stockpiled weapons of mass destruction. It is also supplying such weapons and strategically important technology to many countries. Pakistan has received missiles as well as highly sophisticated technology of strategic importance. This is a matter of deep concern for India. Despite our warming relations with China, this will remain India's main security challenge in the immediate future.

In a report submitted to the monsoon session of Parliament, the committee says that along with the continuous enhancement of its missile program, China's immense help to Pakistan in its missile development program leaves India with no option but to continue its missile program.

Commending the achievements of Indian scientists and engineers in the Integrated Guided Missile Development

Program [IGMDP], the Standing Committee expressed optimism that we will be able to develop high-caliber missile technology very soon. According to the committee, development on the Prithvi and Agni has been completed, and following user trials the Prithvi has now entered the induction phase. Development trials of the Trishul, Akash, and Agni are likely to be completed by 1995-96, after which these missiles will enter the user trial and induction phases.

The Defense Ministry informed the committee that in view of China's missile program and its assistance to Pakistan in this field, it has become very important for India to continue the "Technology Demonstrator Project" [Agni] to acquire technology to fulfill future needs. With the successful launch of the Agni-03 reentry vehicle, this project has almost come to an end. Following the successful flights, the government is examining the situation with respect to defense requirements.

The report says the Indian missile program has not been adversely affected by the Missile Technology Control Regime [MTCR]. The MTCR challenge has actually promoted self-reliance. The process of consultations on the scope of the MTCR began soon after the approval of the IGMDP in 1983, and steps were taken to overcome its adverse effects. When more stringent sanctions were applied under the regime in 1987, attempts were made to move toward greater self- reliance. As a result, today we are not dependent on anybody in this field.

The report refers to last year's Defense Ministry report that mentioned China's increasing military strength. That report expressed concern that China is rapidly modernizing its armed forces and equipping them with the most sophisticated aircraft, weapons of mass destruction, and modern naval equipment. It is also in a position to evade any restrictions on nuclear testing. While paraphrasing some portions of the Defense Ministry's annual report, the committee says India must continue its missile program in light of these developments.

Army Said Dissatisfied With Tank's Firing Accuracy

BK0909092895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The crucial standard trials of the main battle tank Arjun being developed by the Defense Research and Development Organization [DRDO] are to be held in November. According to defense sources, the summer trials held in the Rajasthan desert in June had been largely successful. The Army had, however, expressed dissatisfaction with the firing accuracy of the tank and this is now being improved by the DRDO.

Daily Considers 'Insider' Role in Punjab Bombing

BK1009084795 Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 2 Sep 95 p 4

[Editorial: "A Human Bomb?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Now they say that Beant Singh was not killed by a bomb planted in the back seat of the car, which was exploded with a remote control device. The latest conclusion of the investigating intelligence agencies is that Singh and 14 other persons lost their lives when a human bomb exploded; they also claim now that the bomb contained neither RDX nor plastic explosives. Punjab Police Director General (DGP) Gill believes that it was possibly gelatin dynamite. These conclusions and theories, quite contrary to earlier findings, appear to be an about face because of one unclaimed leg and a totally disfigured face that were also found in the debris. The bodies of the other 15 persons killed in the blast near the cemented porch of the Secretariat have been duly identified and given to their nearest kin for cremation, etc. Since the body parts, the unclaimed leg and face, had been thoroughly mutilated, it is rather convenient to conclude that they had also carried the bomb and hence suffered the maximum effect of the bomb blast. The body to suffer the second worst degree of damage belonged to Dr. Duggal, who was close to Beant Singh, whose body bore the brunt of the blast after these two bodies had suffered. It means that the human bomb was quite close to Dr. Duggal and Beant Singh. The remains of the body of the supposedly human bomb are undergoing DNA testing. DGP Gill claims that this human bomb will be identified in a couple of days. He is already being described as a 20- to 22-year-old boy, who had used the car that was found deserted in the parking lot. The car contained no trace of a remote control device. Gill refused to believe this to be the handiwork of the "Babbar Khalsa" terrorist gang, because this gang, while claiming responsibility for the assassination, had claimed through a faxed message that the explosion was caused by an RDX bomb planted in the back portion of the car. Gill is of the opinion that this human bomb was sent by some other group or gangs or persons.

In this way, before the final DNA test report concerning the identity of the human bomb could be received, Gill has made yet another claim that Beant Singh's security cover had not been penetrated, nor had the departed chief minister's security personnel worked with the assassins. The DGP has given a clean record to the security and police personnel under his command by drawing them out of the realm of suspicion. Gill failed, however, to explain how the human bomb could get so close to the chief minister inside the porch. In Rajiv Gandhi's assassination case, the plea was given that the human bomb, Dhanu, could reach him due to a security lapse; the tragedy could take place since the security checks of all persons going close to Rajiv Gandhi had been eliminated. Hence, the guilty were allegedly those who entrusted the the former prime minister's security arrangements to other security agencies by withdrawing them from the NSG's (National Security Guard) charge. Now two former prime ministers and four senior officers are being involved in this case. DGP Gill, however, still maintains that his security staff did not connive with the assassins, even when the human bomb—according to Gill's theory—got very close to Beant Singh. While Rajiv Gandhi was believed to have been surrounded by his trusted congressmen in Sriperambudur when he was killed, these congressmen were held to be aboveboard. Now Gill wants us to believe that the human bomb was quite entitled to be near Beant Singh, and hence there was no possibility of security personnel conniving with the assassins. While it is a very noble gesture on the part of a senior officer to protect his staff and jawans, Gill has to explain how the human bomb could get so close to Beant Singh if he was not an "insider," did not belong to the security people, or had no connivance with them. Unless he satisfies this vital question, how can his claim that the security personnel had no hand in the conspiracy be justified?

Daily on Results of Punjab Chief Minister's Death

BK0809122695 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 2 Sep 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Punjab? Kashmir?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beant Singh's brutal murder raises two prominent questions in people's minds. First, will it lead to the revival of terrorism in Punjab? Second, will the expected election in Kashmir be postponed?

These questions must be answered not by the people but by the political parties who claim to represent the people. The people have already reached a verdict. If the people's sympathy for the terrorists had not subsided, the terrorists would have continued to gain ground in Punjab and indulge in their bloody games; they could have kept a tiny stream of blood flowing over the land. Because the terrorists in Punjab failed to withstand the people's wrath, they had to surrender their arms. If the morale of the terrorists is visibly sagging in Kashmir as well, it is because the people of the valley who provided shelter to the terrorists have begun to doubt the terrorists' intentions and question their blood-thirstiness in their cause. These doubts and suspicions are building like a wall around the terrorists, who realize that if this wall continues to rise it will be very difficult for them to escape and find their way back into the people's hearts.

It is not just the people; our security forces have discharged their duties very efficiently. After Beant Singh assumed power in Punjab, the security forces under his command inflicted heavy blows against the terrorists in that state. This will always remain etched in the grateful hearts of the people of Punjab and the entire country. The entire nation will remain grateful to those who inflicted these blows and to those who allowed these blows to be inflicted against the terrorists with such telling effect.

In view of the success of the people and the security forces in rooting out terrorism, if the terrorists' morale receives a shot in the arm following Beant Singh's assassination then the central government and the political parties must explain why they left room for terrorism to endure and eventually flourish again. The political process began to resume in Punjab soon after the Rajiv-Longowal accord. Sant Longowal was murdered precisely to stop the return of politics to Punjab. At that time the frightened leaders of the Akali Dal party indirectly and ignorantly helped the extremists by taking shelter behind callous inactivity. Will history repeat itself now, or will something new and different happen?

To ensure that something different takes place, the Congress, the Akali Dal, and the other parties should continue and even intensify their political activities. Meanwhile, the novel start the Congress made in Kashmir by holding a political rally should continue with redoubled vigor. The political parties should see to it that this process does not stop for any reason. The message delivered via the combined efforts of the people and the security forces has been received by the terrorists, who have responded loud and clear by assassinating Beant Singh. By killing the person responsible for bringing peace to Punjab, they have indicated their intention to create unrest in the state once again. They have also cautioned Kashmir, which is willing to follow the path shown by Punjab, that there is no alternative to the path of blood and destruction.

The question is: What will happen in Punjab and Kashmir? This and other related questions will be answered by the political activities in the two states — whether they are intensified and whether the terrorists are in for a more ruthless attack against them.

Radio Reports on New Chief Minister in Punjab

BK0809130995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Punjab, Mr. Harcharan Singh Brar, was sworn in as the chief minister this afternoon at the Raj Bhavan [Governor's Residence] in Chandigarh. The governor, Lieutenant Governor, B.K.N. Chibber, administered the oath of office and secrecy to Mr. Brar. The union ministers — Mr. S.B. Chavan, Mr. Matang Singe, Mr.R.L. Bhatia, and Ms. Sukhbans Kaur — and the AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] General Secretary, Mr. Ahmad Patel, were among those present on the occasion.

Five Union Ministers Submit Resignations to Rao

BK1209034595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Five union ministers of state are reported to have submitted their resignations to the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, to help him to reconstitute his council of ministers. They are: Mr. Krishnakumar, Mr. Ajit Panja, Mrs. Basva Rajeswari, Mr. P.K. Thungan, and Mr. Tarun Gogoi. According to reports, some more ministers are also likely to submit their resignations. A reshuffle in the union cabinet is likely to take place soon.

Sonia Gandhi To Begin Visit to Southern States

BK0509144995 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 29 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by staff reporter]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sonia Gandhi will begin a visit to the south Indian states, starting with Kerala, soon after she returns from South Africa. Currently, she is scheduled to address a public rally like she did in Amethi. The rally is to be called on behalf of the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. Though it has been announced from 10 Janpath [Sonia Gandhi's residence in New Delhi] that the visit will be "nonpolitical" as in Amethi, the decision by Sonia Gandhi to visit south India has again fuelled speculations in Delhi. Sonia left for South Africa today, and will return on 8 September. Then, from 11 to 13 September, she will remain in Kerala. She will visit other states as well. Sources close to her say that a program to visit north India during the next two months after her south India trip has also been finalized.

No reaction by Sonia or her side has yet been reported regarding the political storm stirred by her speech at a public rally in Amethi. There had been no meeting between her and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao during the past five days. On the contrary, the gap between the two sides has naturally widened following Federal Home Minister S.B. Chavan's statement in the parliament. Addressing the Congress Parliamentary Board meeting, Rao defended himself. He told his party MP's that the allegation of negligence and unusual delay in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination investigation is not true, and he said that it will be completed within the next three months. Many in the Congress feel that Rao has opted for a direct confrontation with 10 Janpath. Meanwhile, some young Congress leaders are trying to form a group, while others, such as Sharad Pawar and Jitendra Prasad, are demanding a meeting of the Congress Working Committee on the issue.

When 10 Janpath was contacted this evening about Sonia's south India visit, it was reported that she would be in Kerala 11-13 September. They refused to say anything more at the moment. However, the All India Congress Committee is keeping a close watch on her visit. It is also watching who 10 Janpath's contacts are.

Kerala Chief Minister Karunakaran has openly taken Rao's side following Sonia Gandhi's address at Amethi. He said that there has been no delay at all in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination probe. He said that the investigation into the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi took eight years. In fact, no leader except Karunakaran has so openly contradicted Sonia Gandhi's remarks. Speculations are also rife as to why Sonia first selected Kerala for her visit. Some feel that this was been done in response to Karunakaran's remarks. After Amethi, everyone is certain that now the "nonpolitical" rally will not remain nonpolitical.

Iran

Radio on Possible Suspects in French Bomb Attacks

LD1109184295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1007 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In the wake of an increasing number of bomb explosions, soldiers from the French army have been deployed alongside Paris policemen in order to protect the city's sensitive buildings. The bomb explosions began at a Paris metro station and, in the last explosion, in front of a Jewish school in the town of Villeurbanne, damage was inflicted on the school.

During the past few weeks, France's police, Interior Ministry and security forces have been looking aimlessly for the trail of the people or groups who have committed these criminal acts. These investigations have not been confined to France, but extend to at least the fifteen member countries of the European Union where the search for the perpetrators of the bomb explosions is continuing. In fact, sometime ago, Swedish police arrested someone on the suspicion of having been involved in the incidents.

Although the French president is choosing to remain silent until the investigations have borne fruit, nonetheless, French media — having pre-judged the issue and acting with mischief or, perhaps, wishing to reduce the pressure from public opinion — have been pointing to Islamic groups as being behind these incidents. This is exactly what was done by the U.S. media after the bomb explosion at the FBI building in Oklahoma City in the United States.

In analysing the reasons behind the delay by French police in identifying and arresting the perpetrators of the bomb explosions, some analysts are of the opinion that, in criminal investigations and on the basis of the working culture of police officers and security agents, if the criminals do not leave behind clear signs and indications identifying themselves, the identification of people who have no criminal record and who have committed crimes for the first time is generally a difficult matter.

On the other hand, some other analysts believe that — in order to avoid unpleasant social and political consequences — the police is refraining from revealing the name of the groups which are the real suspects in connection with the bomb explosions. From the point of view of these analysts, the growth of anti-Semitic groups in such countries as Germany, France and, more recently, in the United States, is very notable. Groups which accuse the leaders of their countries of moral, political and financial corruption and which — on the basis of a fanatic nationalism — place anti-Semitism and fear of foreigners on their agenda. Thus, it cannot be ruled out that, as in Germany and the United States, fanatical groups want to correct the corruptions in the political life of France through bomb explosions and violence.

Apart from the [possible] domestic causes of the bomb explosions in France, there is also an opinion which holds that France's policy towards the Serbs and Paris's efforts to strengthen a stance that is independent of the United States have possibly provoked foreign sensitivities. It is notable in this connection that French media initially pointed to the Serbs and to foreign elements other than Islamists as being behind the bomb explosions; perhaps what the French mean by foreign elements is a reference to the secret activities of U.S. intelligence services, one of the most prominent actions of which in Europe was the assassination of Olaf Palme, the Swedish prime minister.

Velayati, Iraqi Minister Discuss Relations

LD1109215695 Tehran IRNA in English
2140 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Iraq's First Deputy Foreign Minister Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, held talks here tonight on bilateral relations and regional issues.

After the end of the closed door meeting which lasted an hour-and-a-half, Iranian Foreign Ministry advisor 'Ali Khorram told reporters that Iran is optimistic of a solution to the outstanding issues between the two countries.

He said the talks between Velayati and Al-Faysal centred on implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 598 which ended the eight-year Iraqi war (1980-88) and on regional developments.

According to Khorram Velayati's emphasis on solving the POWs issue as a "humanitarian problem' [quotation marks as received] struck reciprocal chords, with Al-Faysal announcing the readiness of his government to urgently resolve the matter.

Iran supports the territorial integrity of Iraq, said Khorram.

Velayati and Al-Faysal did not meet the press after their meeting. The Iranian foreign minister went into talks with the Iraqi delegation shortly after his return home from a busy schedule in Ashgabat where he attended two trilateral meetings involving four regional countries.

The Iraqi delegation arrived here on Sunday [10 September] on a week-long visit.

It should be recalled that last Friday, Tehran was the venue of the 7th round of tripartite talks involving the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria and Turkey on developments in Iraq.

Velayati Returns From 'Fruitful' Trilateral Talks

LD1109205095 Tehran IRNA in English
2037 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned to Tehran at the conclusion of his visit to Ashgabat where he held important talks on trilateral cooperation between regional countries.

On Sunday [10 September] Velayati represented Iran at the foreign ministerial meeting involving his Turkmen and Ukrainian counterparts, and followed it up earlier today with another tripartite meeting involving his counterparts from Tajikistan and Turkmenistan.

He said his visit to Ashgabat had been "very fruitful", and one product of such cooperation is to promote regional peace and stability.

Velayati added that regional cooperation has priority for Islamic Iran.

On Friday before flying to the Turkmen capital, Velayati's busy schedule included yet another tripartite meeting in Tehran with the foreign ministers of Turkey and Syria on the developments in Iraq.

Velayati Departs To Attend Malaysia OIC Meeting

LD1209095895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0730 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign minister, left for Malaysia this morning to attend a foreign and defense ministerial-level meeting of the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference]. Thursday's [12 September] meeting will focus on finding a practical and suitable solution to end the Balkans crisis and strengthen the defense capabilities of Muslim Bosnia. The meeting in Kuala Lumpur will be attended by representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Morocco, Turkey, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Malaysia. In addition, Indonesia, Bangladesh, and Jordan will participate as countries which have peacekeeping forces in Bosnia. Qatar will attend as an observer.

President Salutes Tajikistan on Independence Day

LD0909124895 Tehran IRNA in English 1221 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sept 9 (IRNA) — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Saturday [9 September] cabled a message to his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rakhmanov congratulating him and the Tajik nation and government on the independence anniversary of Tajikistan.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to attach special significance to Tajikistan's development, progress and prosperity and for the same reason works for the enhancement of Tehran-Dushanbe ties.

Oman Official Urges Cooperation Among Gulf States

LD0909100395 Tehran IRNA in English 0831 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 9 (IRNA) — Oman's State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusef Bin-'Alawi urged all regional states of the Persian Gulf to "sit down and sort out each and every difference that may exist among them."

In two separate interviews with English-language papers IRAN NEWS and TEHRAN TIMES Bin-'Alawi said that the negotiation table was the best venue for solving bilateral disputes.

Commenting on the Middle East peace process, the official told IRAN NEWS: "The proposed mechanism has hit a snag. The process is difficult... What we can say now is that all concerned nations are seeking the right of coexistence."

He noted that the Arab countries have come to the conclusion among themselves to accept the reality for recognizing Israel as a nation.

Expressing hope that Israeli forces would withdraw from the Arab territories, Bin-'Alawi noted Israeli and Palestinian talks have made some progress but have not reached the level of achieving the real objective.

"We hope to see in the near future some momentum to push the talks ahead," he told IRAN NEWS, adding "what is most important for the regional countries is economic and social reforms so that they can fully utilize their natural resources," the paper quoted him as saying.

Describing Iran's relations with the Sultanate of Oman as "very good," Bin-'Alawi said that there were many areas for bilateral cooperation. He noted that Sultan Qabus was personally following the developments in Irano-Omani relations.

Referring to the issue of the arms race, the official told the paper it has "squandered the wealth of nations... We don't need to acquire more military hardware... We don't think that, after the experience we had in the region, military measures can resolve the region's problems."

He argued that the wars imposed by Iraq on Iran and Kuwait achieved nothing but destruction for all concerned and added "the future of the globe is based not on military might, but a healthy economy."

Noting that social and economic development was Oman's main priority, the official told IRAN NEWS, however, due to regional instability, Muscat was buying weapons, but for self defense only.

Council Approves Import of Sugar From Azerbaijan

LD1009191795 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 10 (IRNA) — Some 50,000 tons of sugar beet are to be imported from

Azerbaijan, the Economic Council approved in its recent session.

Under a contract, concluded between the Moghan Sugar Factory and the Republic of Azerbaijan, part of the sugar extracted from the imported beets would be offered back for sale to the republic.

Labor Minister Says Unemployment Falls 4%

LD0909210895 Tehran IRNA in English
2045 GMT 9 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gonabad (Khorasan), Sept. 9, IRNA — The unemployment rate fell by four percent in Iran during the first five-year development plan (1989-1994), through creation of cottage industries, self employment centres, and urban technical training technical service.

Minister of labour and social affairs, Hoseyn Kamali said here Saturday [9 September] that by setting up a fund for supporting job opportunities, the unemployment rate decreased from 15.9 percent in 1989 to 11.8 percent in 1994.

He further said that some 1.5 million persons availed themselves of the free of charge training offered by the professional technical organization.

During the first five year plan, the number of permanent technical training centers increased from 65 to 120, and by the end of the second 5-year plan (1995-2000), their number is expected to reach 193, added the minister.

Construction Minister Meets Sudanese Ambassador

LD1009201395 Tehran IRNA in English
1947 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 10 (IRNA) — Iran's Minister of Construction Jihad Mohammad Foruzesh here today in a meeting with the Sudanese Ambassador to Tehran Qutbi al-Mahdi, announced that the upcoming Tehran-Khartoum Joint Economic Commission will prepare the ground for expansion of relations between the two countries.

In the meeting Foruzesh expressed hope that the two countries would be able to upgrade their cooperation in the areas of banking and insurance, air links, trade exchanges and transfer of technical know-how.

The two sides agreed that Iran arrange three exclusive industrial and agricultural exhibitions in Khartoum and other Sudanese cities this year.

Calling for expansion of economic relations between Iran and his country, the Sudanese ambassador invited Iran to carry out six infrastructural and agricultural projects in his country in view of Iran's experience in the reconstruction field.

Iran's Construction Jihad Ministry is currently engaged in several development projects in Sudan and other African countries.

Minister, Indian Envoy Discuss 'Upgrading' Ties

LD1009202495 Tehran IRNA in English
1950 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Sep 10 (IRNA) — Indian Ambassador to Iran, Siddharth Singh, here today met with Iran's Minister of Construction Jihad Mohammad Foruzesh.

According to the public relations office of the ministry of construction jihad, in the meeting Foruzesh discussed ways of upgrading cooperation between Tehran and New Delhi.

The two sides also agreed to expand bilateral cooperation in the areas of trade exchange, training of manpower and joint investment in the protein and dairy industry.

Steel Company Said Capable of Meeting Domestic Needs

LD1009213895 Tehran IRNA in English
2102 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Sep 10 (IRNA) — Over 603,185 tons of steel sheets and ingots have been produced at 'Kavian' Steel Company since March 21, deputy chief of the company Seyyed Hoseyn Tayyeb said on Sunday [10 September].

Tayyeb said that 177,456 tons of the company's total output had been exported and about 422,737 tons consumed inside the country.

He added that his company's production capacity rose between March 21 and August 22 to 103,376 tons.

The Iranian official predicted that the company would produce 351,558 tons of steel sheets by the year end.

Moreover, he added that the company is to export 220,000 tons of its products by the end of the current calendar year in march 1996.

Tayyeb said that his company won a world trade medal from France for its commercial and publicity activities and for its excellent transaction record this year.

The company was awarded another international commercial medal from Spain in 1994, he added.

The company, with a capacity of 800,000 tons of steel sheets and ingots per year is capable of meeting domestic requirements at present.

Press Debates Official Fatwa on Salman Rushdie

Hojjati-Kermani: Fatwa Not 'Mandatory'

95LA0306A Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
26 Jun 95 p 2

[Commentary by Mohammad Javad Hojjati-Kermani in "Brief and Articulate" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Salman Rushdie Is a Problem for the West, Not for Us**

What is mandatory for all Muslim "individuals," if they are capable, is prohibited for the "government" of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I did not intend to pick up a pen again, but because the statements of Dr. Velayati, Va'ezi, Sarmadi, and also Dr. Larijani concerning Salman Rushdie have resulted in discussions in society and in the press, I found it necessary to present the religious jurisprudential perspective of the issue, as I understand it. Since this issue is only discussed from a religious jurisprudential perspective, there is no room in it for creating a ruckus, attaching labels, and being boisterous because in that case, the person who does so proves that he does not know anything about religious seminary student discussions, or if he does, he has become so "politicized" that he wants religion and religious jurisprudence to be "political" and not politics to be "religious" and "jurisprudential."

In any case, one must start by saying that the problem of Salman Rushdie, before being our problem, is a problem for the West, because he is an Indian-born Muslim with an Islamic and Eastern lineage, who has appeared among Westerners and, by self-alienation and immorality, has turned his back on his religious and national origin and lineage and has became a filthy tool and dirty handkerchief for the most filthy political deception and antireligious conspiracies of the Westerners...and while the Christian pope speaks of friendship with the Muslims in the world and writes about "windows of hope," and at time when large numbers of Western men and women who are disturbed by the Western materialistic decadence and evil and convert to Islam, this shameful Easterner, who has turned away from Islam, rents a "rat hole" every day and has no restful sleep, fearing the brave Muslim men.

Yes, this is a problem for the West, which is so backward and rejected in defining the standards of "freedom" that it considers insulting and attacking the most sacred beliefs of a nation of 1 billion Muslims to be "freedom" but regards as "anti-freedom" the decree of a fully qualified Muslim religious jurist which is based on a particular legal and religious jurisprudential foundation, which has remained unknown to the West (and even to many of us Easterners, as well).

This is a problem for the West, which, instead of punishing Rushdie and putting him in his place, pats him on the back and puts him, like a stinking corpse, on his head, as if he were something special.

It is a problem for the West that under the guise of democracy, national rights, and independence of countries, the West mercenarily and hypocritically supports shameless, disgraced citizens, which it and the world realize is all excuse making and creating a political ruckus against the Islamic Republic. Otherwise, any wise person would put him in his place and be rid of him.

In any case, this is a problem for the West, which does not know that the decree issued by a fully qualified religious jurist has no relationship to his position as the religious guardian and his legal leadership in the Islamic Republic. As a religious jurist or a religious magistrate, Imam Khomeyni has issued a decree, like all the religious jurists who have written rulings on excommunication in their books, and, as the head and leader of the government, has issued a decree or ruling of death for Salman Rushdie, and this decree or ruling is mandatory for all his emulators.

Again, it is a problem for the West, which does not know (and does not want to know) that Imam Khomeyni never assigned the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran the task of implementing this decree or ruling because the implementation of this ruling is "not permissible" for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, as an auxiliary, since in signing international agreements, it has committed itself to international obligations and is obliged to observe and respect international laws. It is like a sick person who is prohibited from fasting. As the theological students put it, it is "specifically" exempted from the ruling of the imam. "Specification" in the ruling of the imam concerning the Islamic Republic is: "Honor your promises," [preceding phrase in Arabic] which is supported by all religious jurists.

The problem of the West (and, unfortunately, the problem of many of our excited extremists as well) is that they do not know that, based on the blessed verse, "honor your promises," [preceding phrase in Arabic] which is supported unanimously among all revered religious jurists of Islam, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, or any other Islamic "government," is not allowed to renege on its signatures on international agreements, and in an age when people in every corner of the world regard themselves as "obliged" by their signatures, Muslims, whose prophet and religious leaders have been faithful to their promises even with their old belligerent enemies, this government cannot renege on its signature and violate international laws.

Of course, in international conventions we have always retained and still retain the right to "protection," but this is an "exception." As a "rule," as a government with recognized international legal status, we make agreements with the whole world and even honor the agreements of the past oppressive monarchical regime because we recognize all governments, with the exception of Israel. So how would it be possible for the Government of the Islamic Republic to send "commandos" to kill Salman Rushdie? In short, such an action, which is obligatory for all Muslim individuals who are able, is prohibited for the Government of the Islamic Republic, and there is no contradiction between The unchangeable nature of the ruling of Imam Khomeyni and the Islamic Republic respecting international agreements.

Commentary Criticizes Fatwa Remarks

95LA0306B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Jun 95 p 2

[Commentary by Hoseyn Shari'atmadari]

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the refusal of the Islamic Republic to respond positively to the proposal of the European Union in a letter asking the Government of Iran to officially declare a change in its decision to comply with the decree of the imam concerning Salman Rushdie, and while the negative response of the Islamic Republic of Iran assured the Muslim nations of the continuation of the imam's path in Islamic Iran and disturbed and angered the enemies at seeing their plots neutralized, ETTELA'AT, in an article yesterday written by Mr. Mohammad Javad Hojjati-Kermani entitled "Salman Rushdie Is a Problem for the West, Not for Us," calls those who uphold the blessed opinion of the imam "excited extremists" and by raising a discussion which he considers "merely a religious jurisprudential" discussion, has implicitly defended the proposal of the European Union. In his article in yesterday's issue of ETTELA'AT, Mr. Hojjati-Kermani first accuses all those who oppose his opinion as "creating a ruckus," "attaching labels," and "being boisterous," and writes that "this issue is only discussed from a religious jurisprudential perspective, and there is no room in it for creating a ruckus, attaching labels, and being boisterous, because in that case, the person who does so proves that he does not know anything about religious seminary student discussions."

Continuing, he states: "Imam Khomeyni never assigned the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran the task of implementing this decree or ruling because the implementation of this ruling is 'not permissible' for the Government of the Islamic Republic, as an auxiliary, since, in signing international agreements, it has committed itself to international obligations and is obliged to observe and respect international laws. It is like a sick person who is prohibited from fasting. As the theological students put it, he is 'specifically' exempted from the ruling of the imam. 'Specification' in the ruling of the imam concerning the Islamic Republic is 'honor your promises,' [preceding phrase in Arabic] which is supported by all religious jurists..." He writes: "The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran or any other Islamic 'government' is not allowed to renege on its signatures on international agreements." He adds: "Of course, in international conventions, we have always retained and still retain the right to 'protection,' but this is an 'exception.'" He has said that the "ruling" is "honor your promises" [preceding phrase in Arabic] and adherence to international regulations.

There are responses to the views of Mr. Hojjati-Kermani, some of which are:

A. It is not clear what Mr. Hojjati means by saying that no one has the right to object to his opinion. Does this so-called prohibition that Mr. Hojjati has established in the beginning of his article also include religious jurists or only lay people? In the first case, obviously, he has made a baseless statement because all religious jurists and thinkers believe that the "door to independent reasoning [ejtehad]" is not closed, but if he prohibits lay jurists from opposing his opinion, it must be said: First, your opinions, before being jurisprudential, are political; second, supposing that they are jurisprudential, one should not forget this delicate point: by resorting to religious jurisprudential issues—of course, in your own opinion—Your Honor has made and expressed a "political" conclusion. Hence, it is incredible that you have made a ruling ahead of time and have prohibited anyone from opposing your opinion.

B. Your Honor certainly knows what the European Union means by the official pledge of the Islamic Republic of Iran to announce that it has changed its decision to implement the ruling of the imam. Do you not know that making such a pledge means that if a citizen of Islamic Iran carries out the ruling of the imam regarding Salman Rushdie, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is legally obliged to deal with him, or if the Europeans inform the Islamic government that some person or persons are trying to kill Salman Rushdie, the government must legally prevent their action?

If the government is negligent in arresting those who have implemented the ruling of the imam or are trying to implement it, would Your Honor, as an "expert," not protest that the government has acted against the ruling of "honor your promises" [preceding phrase in Arabic] or write in an article in ETTELA'AT again as to why the Government of the Islamic Republic, despite signing legal agreements and commitments, has refused to arrest and punish the implementers of the imam's ruling has not paid attention to the religious jurisprudential evidence as Your Honor understands? Of course, you may say that you do not mean that the government must make a pledge. In this case, what do you mean? The issue is very clear. The European Union has asked Iran to make a pledge, and the Government of Iran has refused to do so. Now, what would Your Honor say? What has motivated you to write: "I found it necessary to present the religious jurisprudential perspective of the issue, as I understand it"? Mr. Hojjati-Kermani, does Your Honor really think that the purpose of the European Union in obtaining the pledge is only an act for the sake of appearance and formality? Do you not know what motivation is hidden behind this request? If you do not know it, you had better first acquire this rudimentary and precursory awareness before giving an opinion, and if you do...we do not know why....

C. Mr. Hojjati-Kermani has written: "Of course, in international conventions, we have always retained and still retain the right to 'protection,' but this is an 'exception.'" He has considered the rule as bound by international rules and commitments. This is a correct statement, and the Islamic Republic of Iran has always announced that whenever international obligations and rules are contradictory to Islamic laws and national interests, by resorting to the "right of protection," it will refuse to accept them. The question is, in the opinion of Mr. Hojjati-Kermani regarding our absolving the punishment of a person who has made the worst insult to Islam and the messenger of God, is the request of the European Union not a very clear instance requiring the Islamic Republic of Iran to refuse to accede by relying on the "right of protection"?

As a committed Muslim and clerical brother, does Mr. Hojjati-Kermani accept that "maintaining relations with Western countries" is more important than protecting the honor of Islam and the messenger of God? And, God forbid, does he believe that disrespect for the messenger of God is not an issue regarding which the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran must ignore the rule of "honor your promises" [preceding phrase in Arabic] and international regulations?

With our understanding of Mr. Hojjati-Kermani, we are certain that he would never have such a belief and are shocked and dismayed at the opinion he expresses in his writing. Mr. Hojjati might say that what he meant by raising the issue of the "right of protection" and its being an exception was not in regard to the issue of the insults of the writer of SATANIC VERSES. Had anyone doubted the correctness of the law of the "right of protection" for Your Honor to try to eliminate that doubt with your article? And is the subject of your article not the decree of the imam concerning Salman Rushdie? Let us go on...

D. Referring to the historical decree of Imam Khomeyni, Mr. Hojjati-Kermani has written: "This decree or ruling is obligatory for all his emulators," which is amazing coming from him, because if the opinion of the imam is a "ruling," it is obligatory not only to his emulators but all Muslims. Mr. Hojjati, however, knows that the imam's opinion, in addition to being a decree, was also a ruling, as he himself wrote, "this decree or ruling." Then how can he write: It is only obligatory for his emulators?

E. Finally, does Mr. Hojjati-Kermani not see the clear and frequent violations of international laws and treaties by the imperialist powers? While our enemies do not honor their promises, should the Islamic Republic of Iran disregard its most essential right, which is to defend Islam, the sanctity of the messenger of God, and the ideals and values of more than a billion Muslims on the basis of adhering to international regulations? Did the Prophet of God, after the infidels broke their treaty and despite the fact that the treaty was previously made between Muslims and infidels, not go to war against them? If only Mr. Hojjati-Kermani would at least make reference to a few of the numerous instances of breaking of promises and violations of international treaties by the imperialist powers as well, and....

In conclusion, admitting that we do not know anything about religious jurisprudence and being certain that the writer of "Brief and Articulate" of ETTELA'AT would at least consider the religious jurisprudence of the imam superior to his own—which is essentially an uncalled-for comparison—we conclude this writing with a statement by that great religious jurist and leader, who said: "What I fear is that the analysts of today will sit on the seat of judgment 10 years from now and say, we must see whether or not the Islamic decree and the execution ruling for Salman Rushdie were in accordance with diplomatic principles or laws" and conclude that, since the expression of God's ruling has had some effects and consequences and the Common Market and Western countries have taken positions against us, then we should not be immature and should overlook those who insult the sacred prophet, Islam, and our ideology.

Hojjati-Kermani Responds to Criticism

95LA0306C Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 28 Jun 95 p 2

[Commentary by Mohammad Javad Hojjati-Kermani in "Brief and Articulate" column]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The Difference Between Theological Student and Journalistic Discussions...**

No, ...not so...you didn't hit the "mark"...

What was published in the "Brief and Articulate" column the day before yesterday (05/04/1374 [26 June 1995]) was criticized in the morning and afternoon newspapers yesterday (06/04/1374 [27 June 1995]) by the brothers of JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI and KEYHAN. I welcome such criticism under the same condition that was stated in that article: avoiding making a ruckus and adherence to the method of theological students, part of which is maintaining the protocol of brotherhood and sincerity in the course of the discussion and after the discussion ends. For this reason, I have avoided responding to articles that lacked this condition, as far as I recall. However, since first, the issue of the "sanctity" of the action of the Government of the Islamic Republic regarding any matter that violates signed international treaties by this government is a very sensitive world issue and plays a very important role in our foreign policy, it seems to me that to pursue the discussion is very beneficial (both opposing and supporting). Second, because I found the tone of these two criticisms—not their content—to a great extent closer to seminary discussions than to what has been printed in the past, I found it necessary to continue the discussion.

In this issue, I only pointed out that first, such a deep legal and religious prudential discussion must be done normally by the sources of emulation, great religious jurists, and revered legal experts. I am uneasy that it is being discussed on the newspaper level by a humble seminary student such as myself. Since I have been a seminary student and know very well the important position of "debate" in seminaries, I have learned by experience that seminary student discussions that are set forth by students in the seminaries are carefully and meticulously reviewed by the great teachers. I had hoped that that which was discussed by this writer in the newspaper would be discussed in the seminaries before the teachers, to be criticized with the methodology of seminaries and seminary students. Now, too, I invite the revered members of the seminaries and universities to enter this discussion so that both myself and the honorable critics as well as the revered readers will "benefit" from it.

In any case, one of the characteristics of seminary student discussion is "discussion on the subject," and "outside the issue" among us seminary students is deviation from the proper course of discussion. Dealing with marginal issues and not the main issue is a prohibited matter in seminaries and seminary student discussions because in doing so, the "main issue" is not analyzed and enriched; in fact, justice is not served. With this introduction I would like to say that I believe that these brothers have forgotten one principle of seminary student discussions and have followed a journalistic course. My main argument was that the killing of Salman Rushdie is prohibited for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and that the ruling or decree of Imam Khomeyni does not involve the "Government of the Islamic Republic" and other Islamic "governments" because this ruling or decree is stipulated with regard to "honor your promises," which is an irrefutable Koranic and religious jurisprudential principle that is agreed upon by all religious jurists, legal experts, and learned people in the world.

Let us talk about the main issue since shooting around the "mark" does not win any points. Oh inexperienced theological students, pay attention to the texts, not the marginal notes. In the next issues, I will speak to these brothers.

'New Ideas' Article Backs Hojjati-Kermani

95LA0306D Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 1 Jul 95 p 3

[Commentary by Amir Hoseyn Mohammadi]

[FBIS Translated Text] **"New Ideas"**

In an article published on Monday, 5 Tir [26 June], in ETTELA'AT, Mr. Hojjati-Kermani made a particular categorization regarding the implementation of the ruling of the execution of Salman Rushdie, which instead of being critiqued was faced with sharp reactions by other newspapers. In this article, I do not intend to enter the main discussion and endorse or reject his opinions. What made me write this article was the issue of discussing new thoughts and ideas on various political and special issues in the society and the method of reacting to them. The limits and boundaries of freedom of the pen and speech, and as a result new ideas and opinions, must be recognized, and in the same way that the boundaries of the freedom of the pen and expression against the unruly and the enemies must be protected, the sanctity of the respectable people, who have new ideas, must also be guarded. If an individual or individuals raise particular new ideas within the framework of the determined boundaries, they must be welcomed, even if they are ultimately rejected. What is important is that the discussion of new ideas and opinions be allowed within the boundaries of the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran. A society as large as our country, in a world that is changing as fast as lightning and wind, certainly needs new ideas and opinions and consequently new tactics and methods. A society that is unable to acquire new tactics and methods with new ideas while preserving its principles will be dragged into recession and stagnation.

In my opinion, the boundaries and limits of the freedom of the pen and expression in the regime of the Islamic Republic are the principles of Islam and the opinions of the religious guardian. In other words, any speech or writing that is not contrary to the principles of Islam and the opinions presented by the grand leader must be able to be discussed, reviewed, and criticized properly, devoid of any ruckus. Unfortunately, in some cases it is seen that as soon as a particular opinion or new idea is presented, these opinions and ideas, without expert discussion and criticism, are generally regarded as contrary to Islam and the opinions of the leader and reacted to all too harshly.

The results of such reproachful reactions, which in many instances divert the issue from its proper course of discussion and reasoning and end in excommunication and vengeance, will be nothing less than the depoliticizing of the society, especially the young generation, and particularly students and university people. Ideas must be answered with ideas in order to provide the grounds for the appearance and growth of new ideas, especially among the young people and students. The slogans and popular aspects of violent and harsh reactions exceed their intellectual and rational aspect and create despair in the young people and students, who are eager for ideas, thoughts, and reasoning. We must be eager for new ideas and opinions and respond to them with newer ideas and opinions, not with violence and insults.

Think to what extent the academic community will grow culturally and politically if, by placing value on and creating suitable grounds for the raising and growth of new ideas, out of every 100,000 students only one student comes up with a new idea or proposal in political, social, and cultural issues. Naturally, among hundreds and thousands of ideas and opinions, a few false and diabolic ideas might be raised as well that must be silenced.

What we all know of the infallible imams and prominent figures in religion is their eagerness for discussion, debate, and the exchange of opinions, with utmost dignity and observing Islam and human customs and ethics. The election of Mr. Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Hoseyni, who conducts the program about ethics in the family, as the first deputy of Tehran among the candidates affiliated with various factions shows the importance and integrity that our society places on ethics. One of the most important characteristics of an ethical person is patience and forbearance vis-a-vis other people's ideas and opinion. We must wash our pens and saturate them with the ink of ethics to guard the Islamic principles. We must guard the respect of our respected people and not regard those with new ideas as outsiders.

Of course, the regime of the Islamic Republic has an axis and criterion that we are obliged to observe, and that criterion, axis, and boundary are the opinions of the grand leader. Until the leader has announced his opinions and positions regarding an issue, the society must be accepting of and eager for new opinions and criticize them good naturedly. Once the clear opinion of the leader is specified about an issue, we shall all make an effort to guard it.

Daily Responds to 'New Ideas' Article

95LA0306E Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 2 Jul 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] **Wrong Prediction**

Following the criticism by KEYHAN of the views stated by Mr. Mohammad Javad Hojjati-Kermani in ETTELA'AT on 05/04/1374 [26 June 1995], in another article, Mr. Hojjati promised to respond, but no response has been presented yet. Of course, it is not too late. Yesterday, in the column "Letters Received" in ETTELA'AT, a letter entitled "New Ideas" was published, the content of which and the deception that has been used in this article to avoid giving a rational response that is worthy of attention.

In the article, "New Ideas," in a popular guise, in the form of so-called advice, the writer expresses concern that Mr. Hojjati's article has encountered "sharp" responses by other newspapers and writes: "Such reproachful reactions, which in many instances divert the issue from its proper course of discussion and reasoning and end in excommunication and vengeance, will be nothing less than the depoliticizing of the society." It is not clear what he means by "sharp" and "reproachful" responses. Who has had such a reaction to Mr. Hojjati-Kermani's article? All those who have read the article in KEYHAN know well that in the KEYHAN article on Tuesday entitled "What Religious Jurisprudential Discussion?" not only was there not the slightest "sharp" or "reproachful" reaction, but with utmost dignity and without any attack on Mr. Hojjati-Kermani, his statements were reviewed and criticized in ETTELA'AT. Mr. Hojjati-Kermani, too, in his article in ETTELA'AT on the following day—in which he had promised to respond—had made this point clear. Hence, it is surprising that the author of the article, "New Ideas," speaks of a sharp reaction. This is while Mr. Hojjati-Kermani, in the beginning of his article on Monday, stresses that anyone who tries to respond to him is "creating a ruckus" and "being boisterous," etc. In the article on Wednesday, too, he calls those who have criticized his views "inexperienced theological students." Now we must ask the gentleman who philosophically and in a prophetic tone warns others to avoid sharp and reproachful reactions:

First, in which article was Mr. Hojjati-Kermani reacted to sharply and reproachfully?

Second, is it not true that Mr. Hojjati in ETTELA'AT accused all those who try to respond to his article of creating a ruckus, being boisterous and inexperienced seminary students, and the like, and that the critics have kept silent with regard to these accusations and, contrary to him, have preferred dignity to accusations and insults?

Still the memories of those days have not been eliminated from the historical memory of our people, such as when Bani-Sadr and his friends made all sorts of accusations and lies against the supporters of the imam, the young Hezbollah members, the Basijis, and the combatants, and at the same time those around him, including...in a reformist posture, would give advice to the Hezbollah, stating: Dear ones, why do you have such sharp reactions? [sentence as published] There was no one to remind those who are throwing the Hezbollah and Basiji youths from the walls on the lawn of Tehran University, the supporters of Bani-Sadr, about "sharp reactions" or the warnings of the Hezbollah ...

We recommend to the writer of "Letters Received" in ETTELA'AT that from now on he review the "proposed projects once again after he receives them in order not to be uninformed about the proposed plan.

Apparently, the prior expectation was that after publishing the article of Mr. Hojjati-Kermani in ETTELA'AT, some people would give sharp responses to his article, and, based on this supposition, the writer of "Letters Received" prepared his article. After Mr. Hojjati's article was given a logical—according to him—response, the column in "Letters Received" was no longer appropriate, but apparently the writer of "Letters Received" was not informed that this prediction had turned out to be false, or perhaps in order not to have his troubles wasted, he proceeded with the publication of his article. It is said that two workers were working on a street in Tehran, the first one digging the street and the second filling the hole in again. They were asked: What is the meaning of this futile action? One of them answered: There used to be three of us; one dug the street, the second installed electrical cable, and the third refilled the ditch that was dug. Unfortunately, the second worker has forgotten to come to work for several days, so in order to perform our important duty and not to be idle, the two of us still do our jobs.

Nepal

King Appoints Opposition Leader Prime Minister

Radio Reports on New Appointment

LD1109160395 Kathmandu Radio Nepal in English 1415 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty the King has appointed the leader of the main opposition [Nepali Congress] party, Sher Bahadur Deuba, to the post of prime minister in accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal, 1990. Prime Minister Deuba is heading a coalition government comprising of the Nepali Congress, the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party and the Nepal Sadbhavana Party. Prime Minister Deuba had claimed that he had the support of 106 members in the House of Representatives to gain the vote of confidence. His Majesty the King has also thanked the council of ministers (?formed under the chairmanship of) Man Mohan Adhikari for discharging their duties.

Earlier, His Majesty the King had called upon members of the House of Representatives to make their submissions to His Majesty establishing one's ability to command confidence of the majority of the members of the House of Representatives in accordance with Article 42, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Nepal, 1990. This is stated in a communique issued today by the principal press secretariat of His Majesty the King.

Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba was born in 1946 in [placename indistinct]. Mr. Deuba was imprisoned for his political beliefs over a period of nine years at different points of time. He most actively participated in promoting multi-party democracy in Nepal during the national referendum in 1980. Mr. Deuba also participated in the popular movement for the restoration of democracy in Nepal and has lobbied for democracy in Western countries. Mr. Deuba served as home minister during the Nepali Congress government [between May 1991 and November 1994] following his election as member of parliament from [placename indistinct] district. Mr.

Deuba is the fourth democratically elected prime minister after the advent of democracy.

New Prime Minister Comments on Goals

BK1109160295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba has been appointed the new prime minister of Nepal. The new Council of Ministers will be sworn in tomorrow. Mr. Deuba, who heads a three-party coalition of the Nepali Congress, the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party and the Sadbhavana Party, had an audience with King Birendra in Katmandu this evening.

Later, talking to newsmen, Mr. Deuba said his first priority will be to cleanse public life and bring political stability in the country. Our Katmandu correspondent reports that the coalition partners have agreed on a common program. Earlier, the coalition submitted a representation to the King signed by 106 members in a House of 205, staking their claim to form the government. The nine-month old Mana Mohan Adhikari government was ousted in a vote of no confidence yesterday.

New Coalition Issues Statement Against Communists

BK1209091595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0907 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, Sept 12 (AFP) — Nepal's new prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba on Tuesday [12 September] accused the communist government he ousted of ruining the country's economy and abusing its power.

The new coalition headed by the Nepali Congress (NC) leader issued a statement ahead of its swearing in by King Birendra lambasting the communist government of Man Mohan Adhikari.

Deuba was to head a five-member provisional cabinet with representatives from Congress, the right-wing Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) and the Nepal Sadbhavana Party (NSP), state radio said.

Their statement said that during 10 months in power the communists had "wrecked the national economy, disturbed social harmony and made the administration a party tool to promote its vested interests.

"They made the constitutional monarchy, independent judiciary and election commission targets of objectionable activities," added the statement.

The "objectionable activities" were demonstrations staged by the Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist Leninist and its allies against the supreme court for reinstating parliament on August 28.

The court ruled that the dissolution of parliament by King Birendra at the recommendation of Adhikari was "unconstitutional." Parliament reconvened Sunday and Adhikari resigned after losing a censure motion.

The coalition statement added: "We were worried that if these trends had continued national sovereignty, democracy and welfare of the society would have been obstructed.

The opposition had been especially critical of the communists' land redistribution and special cash awards for the elderly.

Sharda Man Pradhan, a retired former Congress leader, said: "The communist government has been plundering national wealth for their election campaigns."

The communists started giving a yearly cash award of 1,200 rupees (24 dollars) to all people over 70 eventually to be extended to more than 1.4 million votes.

The communists also distributed land to more than 58,300 landless families. More than 500,000 landless people were to get land over the next three years, according to officials.

The new governing parties said: "Our commitment to parliamentary democracy, constitutional monarchy, and an independent judiciary will remain unwavered."

(?Domestic policies) will concentrate on improving living standards and reducing unemployment by introducing a "liberal market-oriented economy" and encouraging the private sector and exporters.

"Our priority will be to identify people below poverty line and fulfil their basic needs," it said.

The parties promised to keep up "friendly relations" with neighbouring giants India and China.

An agreement on a controversial water and power sharing agreement with India will be laid before parliament soon, the parties said. The new government must also try to find an alternative to a huge hydro-electricity project east of Kathmandu after the World Bank withdrew its support earlier this year.

Deuba, 49, will hold the portfolios for finance, foreign affairs, defence, agriculture, planning, civil aviation, commerce, health, labour and social welfare, tourism, transport and several other areas.

Kahal Thapa of the RPP will take charge of law and justice and parliamentary affairs. NSP leader Gajendra Narayan Singh was allocated local supply. Dhundi Raj

Shastri of the Congress will become industry minister and Khum Bahadur Khadka, also of the Congress, will be in charge of local development.

New Cabinet Ministers, Portfolios Said Announced

BK1209131095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Nepal, the new Council of Ministers and their portfolios have been announced. According to the Press Secretariat of the king, the prime minister, Mr. Sher Bahadur Deuba, will hold charge of palace affairs, finance, defense, and foreign affairs. He will have two ministers from the Nepali Congress and one each from Rashtriya Prajatantra Party and the Sadbhavana Party, his coalition partners. Mr. Dhundi Raj Shastri and Mr. Khum Bahadur Khadka, both from Nepali Congress, are given the charge of industry and local development. Mr. Gajendra Narayan Singh, who is also the chief of the Sadbhavana Party, will be in charge of supplies, while Mr. Kamal Thapa of the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party will look after law and justice.

Politicians View Fall of Government, New Coalition

BK1209105795 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 11 Sep 95

[Report "by a POST reporter" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu — Amid speculations over the coalition government-to-be, the former prime minister G.P. Koirala said the three-party government will survive its full term.

Talking to journalists after the no-confidence vote Sunday [10 September], the Nepali Congress leader ruled out the possibility of history repeating itself.

He dismissed queries that indicated whether coalition government would survive while a majority government failed last year. That's history. We have learned a lot from the history.

The coalition government will strengthen democracy and bring out programmes to boost the living standard of the poor, he said.

Surya Bahadur Thapa, the RPP [Rashtriya Prajatantra Party] chairman said his party would make an all-out effort to strengthen the coalition: The coalition will not do anything that will destabilize the people. We will be engaged in boosting democracy, constitution and the monarchy, said Thapa.

The UML [United Marxist-Leninist] Upper House member Mohanchandra Adhikari, however, was guarded in his reaction. If the future government becomes stable and carries out development activities well, it will be a great news for the nation, he said adding: But if the coalition gets bogged down in internal wrangling, it won't be good for the country. The role of other three parties is equally important as that of the UML in the consolidation of democracy. If the parties are mutually tolerant the people's aspirations will be fulfilled.

The RPP General Secretary Prakash Chandra Lohani said the upholding of the no-confidence vote is the victory for democracy and not anyone's win or defeat.

The coalition government will function smoothly since the Nepali Congress and the RPP have decided to work together, said Lohani.

Damannath Dhungana, the former Speaker of the House hailed Sunday's vote as a three-fold victory. The Court verdict has established the ability of the House. There has been an exercise on vote of no-confidence and ultimately it has succeeded in bringing together those who had refused to abide by the parliamentary rule.

This is a victory for democracy — Three Cheers For Democracy! hailed Dhungana.

Newspaper Reports on Fall of Government

BK1209100195 Kathmandu THE KATHMANDU POST in English 11 Sep 95

[Report "by a POST reporter" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu — By a tally of 107 to 88, parliament on Sunday [10 September] voted out the nation's first elected communist government, bringing the nine month tenure of Prime Minister [PM] Mana Mohan Adhikari to an abrupt halt.

When the motion of no-confidence came up for voting, the Nepali Congress [NC] (with 82 seats), Rashtriya Prajatantra Party [RPP] (19), and Nepal Sadbhavana Party [NSP] voted as a block in favour of the motion, striking a death blow to Adhikari's minority government.

They were supported by three independent lawmakers who recently joined the NC and also by an independent MP Jyotendra Mohan Chaudhary, and MP Hridayesh Tripathi who remains suspended from the NSP.

Three lawmakers of the Nepal Peasants and Workers Party led by Narayan Man Bijukchhe abstained from the vote. However, two legislators of the extreme left Mashal party voted against the motion. Conspicuously absent from the House were UML [United Marxist-Leninist] deputy general secretary Bam Dev Gautam and another ruling party MP.

Prime Minister Adhikari who is recuperating at Teaching Hospital from last month's helicopter crash could not come in the House. Speaker Ram Chandra Paudel who belongs to the NC did not cast his vote because the Speaker can vote only to break a tie.

The long awaited and expected results of the vote puts the ball in the NC's court which is once again poised for power with the help of its smaller allies.

The NC is awaiting King Birendra to call them anytime to form a coalition government to be cobbled together with RPP and NSP. NC's parliamentary leader Sher Bahadur Deuba is expected to lead the new government.

Talking to newsmen soon after the vote Deuba said the new coalition cabinet could be announced by Monday morning at the earliest.

Asked what would be the priorities of the new government, Deuba replied: The priority will be to bring Nepal back to fiscal discipline.

Pressed if that meant rolling back UML's flagship programme, Build Your Village Yourself, he categorically said: No.

Adhikari's Reply

After days of acromonious bickering Adhikari finally got to defend himself in parliament just before the vote, airing his views on television which had been recorded from his hospital bed in the morning.

A frail looking Adhikari, in halting voice, put up a last minute defense of his government's performance and urged the opposition to reconsider the motion.

Prime Minister Adhikari said that all the allegations made in the vote of no-confidence motion against him were baseless, ill intentioned and prejudiced.

Adhikari said it is ridiculous that those who have the habit of running an authoritarian system and trying to impose totalitarianism under the pretext of democracy should teach us how to follow a democratic conduct and how to work for the welfare of the people.

Stating that whatever the CPN [Communist Party of Nepal]-UML government did after coming to power had been done sincerely for the welfare of the country and the people, Adhikari said that nine months time was not sufficient to fulfill all the aspirations of the people and to consolidate democracy since it normally takes nine months to build an ordinary house and to give birth to child.

The prime minister said that there was enough grounds for the CPN-UML government to be proud of the works done by it in the past nine months despite the limitations imposed by the budget presented by the Nepali Congress government through an ordinance.

Adhikari said it is meaningless for the opposition parties who have threatened to use machine guns and made public speeches against the institutions of crown to accuse the CPN-UML of deviating from the path of the constitution, the parliamentary system and healthy political competition.

The tendency of the opposition parties not to lag behind in forging an unholy alliance for grabbing power might serve as an obstacle to healthy development of the country's politics, he said.

Sher Bahadur Deuba, who moved the motion, refused to reconsider the motion and Speaker Paudel finally put the motion through the vote.

PM Adhikari's attempt to derail the special session last June by dissolving parliament was struck down by the Supreme Court and the 74 year old Adhikari had no choice but to face the no-confidence vote.

Reactions

After the expected results, UML MP and Adhikari's press advisor Raghu Pant told THE KATHMANDU POST: We accept the democratic process. But if the new government cannot function smoothly, we are always there (to stage a comeback).

But opposition lawmakers were more than happy with the outcome. It's been a peaceful transition. In the present situation that is required.

And we hope the future government will show tolerance, RPP's Pashupati S.J.B. Rana said.

The party's top leader Surya Bahadur Thapa, who incidentally is the first PM to be voted out from power, said: We are confident the coalition government will rule for the remaining period.

In 1983, Thapa, then PM in the Panchayat system, was defeated in a no-confidence motion.

With the NC back in power, there is likely to be an intense effort to revive Arun-III, the mega hydroelectric project which was derailed last month by the World Bank.

NC's Ram Sharan Mahat, who is widely touted to head the Finance Ministry in the coalition said, We will try to bring back the project.

I am very much hopeful, but not very confident that we will succeed since the World Bank has already taken a decision.

Pakistan

Afghanistan's Dostam Condoles Bhutto on Kabul Event

BK1209072895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] General Abdul Rashid Dostam, leader of the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, has strongly condemned the attack on the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul and expressed his sympathy with the government and people of Pakistan.

In a message from Mazar-e Sharif to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, he said this act was against all diplomatic norms and the aspirations of the people of Afghanistan. He said the elements involved in this attack have nothing to do with the people of Afghanistan. Dostam added the help given by the people and the government of Pakistan to the Afghan people during the 14-year old holy war against Soviet aggression cannot be forgotten. He expressed the hope that the friendship between the people of the two countries will not be affected by such acts, adding that this friendship will be further stabilized and strengthened with the passage of time.

Turkish Defense Minister Arrives on Official Visit

BK1009100195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkish Defense Minister Mehmet Golhan has arrived in Islamabad on a four-day official visit to Pakistan. Defense Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani received him at the airport. Welcoming the guest, Mirani said Pakistan and Turkey enjoy cordial relations, not only at the government level but also at the level of the people. He said the Turkish defense minister's visit is the manifestation of the very close ties between the two brotherly nations.

Meets President in Islamabad

BK1009143295 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 10 Sep 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and Turkey are bound by centuries-old ties of religion, history, and culture and friendship between the two countries transcends geographical and physical barriers. This was stated by President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari while talking to the minister for national defense of the Republic of Turkey, Mr. Mehmet Golhan, who called on him at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President House] today. The president said Pakistan valued its relations with Turkey, which would go from strength to strength in the days to come. He expressed the view that both countries could further enhance and consolidate their relationship through expanding cooperation in trade and by undertaking joint ventures in specific areas.

Reciprocating the goodwill gesture, Mr. Mehmet Golhan informed the president that he had very useful negotiations with the defense authorities in Pakistan and hoped that both countries would cooperate in this sector to mutual advantage. Defense Minister Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani was also present during the meeting.

Daily Assails Gas Supply Accord With Turkmenistan

BK1009155895 Islamabad NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 10 Sep 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Gas Supply to India From Turkmenistan—At What Cost to Kashmir"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Farooq Leghari signed an agreement during his visit to Turkmenistan, which will give Pakistan passage to Turkmenistan's gas supply to India. President Niyazov of Turkmenistan said that this pipeline will be a symbol of peace and stability in the region. President Niyazov may not be fully aware of the serious problems of the subcontinent but President Farooq Leghari is well aware that the gas, which will be supplied through Pakistan, will lead to strengthening India and developing its economy. From this income India can collect more arms and use them against Pakistan. Before this, the prime minister and the president gave final shape to the agreements to supply Iranian gas to India through Pakistan.

Whether India is supplied gas from Iran or from Turkmenistan, Pakistan will suffer. Our rulers should always keep patriotism in mind while signing such agreements and always give priority to Pakistan's interest over India's interest. Our rulers should be aware that usurper India is inflicting atrocities in Kashmir, and under the pretext of crushing the freedom struggle, has repeatedly threatened to teach a lesson to Pakistan if it did not stop interfering in Kashmir. Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao and Interior Minister Rajesh Pilot have openly said that they will not stop attacking Azad Kashmir. Sardar Abdul Qaiyum, the prime minister of Azad Kashmir, has said many times that Indian forces are gathering to go to the Kashmir border. In fact the Kashmir dispute is an issue that has caused several wars between India and Pakistan and India has used it as an excuse to commit aggression against Pakistan. Everybody in Pakistan clearly knows that without a settlement of the Kashmir dispute (which should be according to the UN resolutions and the agenda of independence and partition of India) peace in the subcontinent cannot even be dreamed of.

The Turkmenistan president said that the gas pipeline through Pakistan to India would be a symbol of peace in the region. It was the responsibility of President Leghari to apprise his host of the gravity and sensitiveness of the Kashmir problem. Quoting the bitter examples of India's hostility towards Pakistan he should have made it clear that peace and stability is not possible in the region without a solution to the Kashmir issue. Unfortunately, due to the failure of our foreign policy, even the Muslim countries in our neighborhood have come under the influence of the Indian lobby. Bilateral trade with these countries is growing day-by-day despite the fact that these countries do not have common borders with India.

Pakistan bravely faced the hardships of the Afghan war and it was hoped that after the withdrawal of the Soviet troops and the dissolution of the Soviet Union that Pakistan would provide passage to the world for these newly independent Central Asian states and would receive all the financial benefits from this trade but alas, the hopes did not come true. Pakistan is as far from these countries as it was before the Afghan war. The power struggle in Afghanistan has created a civil war like situation and Pakistan is also facing internal disturbances. So no one has been able to do proper planning and policy formulation.

The projects of providing Iranian and Turkeman gas to India prove that our rulers are unable to even recognize Pakistan's interests. We have been continuously making it clear to the ruling authorities that unless the Kashmir dispute is settled according to the wishes of the Kashmir people, and according to the UN resolutions and the agenda of freedom and partition of India, no Pakistani ruler should sign any agreement that serves the interests of India. Signing agreements for the benefit of India, while ruling Pakistan does not make any sense. President Farooq Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto should review the agreement with Iran and Turkmenistan and Pakistan should not provide passage rights for the supply of gas to India from these countries. Normalization of trade between India and Pakistan can only be considered when the Kashmir dispute has been solved. Providing any financial benefit to India before that will be like making fun of the sacrifices being made by the Kashmiris, which will be very disappointing for the Kashmiri freedom fighters.

Navy's 'Ambitious' Modernization Program Viewed

BK0409075095 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 3 Sep 95 pp 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Sept 2—In order to keep pace with modern demands and to meet the ever-growing threat from the mighty Indian Navy, Pakistan Navy will soon be embarking upon an ambitious modernisation programme. The objectives of the modernisation and upgradation will be met through indigenous production of several systems with a considerable active foreign collaboration.

According to well informed defence sources the main objective of this programme will be to acquire a modern fire control system for Pakistan Navy's present fleet of Frigates and missile boats.

This will also include a complete transfer of technology from the country these systems would be procured. Pakistan Navy is also evolving a programme to enable some of its rebuild facilities to achieve the ISO-9000 international certification of quality and excellence. It is believed that the DCNI [Dubigeon Cherbourg Naval Dockyard Industry] of Agosta-90 have conveyed to Pakistan Navy that in the absence of ISO-9000 certification, it was unable to assist Karachi Dockyard in the construction of third submarine under the clause of full transfer of technology.

According to the contract between DCNI of France and Pakistan Navy, France was to build one submarine in Pakistan to complete the process of complete transfer of technology. According to reports a team of experts recently visited Kamara to have an in-depth discussions with PAC [Pakistan Aeronautics Complex] experts who have just qualified for the prestigious ISO-9000 certification.

Pakistan Navy is also reported to be in the process of developing its own missile programme which is basically aimed at giving its fleet self-reliance and an effective deterrent in the absence of Harpoon missile system which will not be available to Pakistan any more due to Pressler embargo. Pakistan Navy though much smaller as compared to its traditional enemy has become a much effective deterrent through modification programmes and better training of its officers

Pakistan Navy already has enormous abilities to rebuild, up grade and overhaul its naval air arms as well as its warships, submarines, missile boats radar mine-hunters and Seaking and Alouette helicopters.

Pakistan Navy successfully in stalled Harpoon subsurface-to surface missile on its submarine and Excocet-Air long range fire and missile on its Seaking helicopters.

In next few years Pakistan Navy will have indigenous 850 tons patrol-craft, one mine countermeasures vessel, one submarine, 25 optimist class boats, 36 GPR [expansion unknown] boats, 60 laser-class boats, four diesel barge boats and four water barges water barges.

According to well informed sources Pakistan is at the advanced stage of negotiations with South Africa for the upgradation programme of fire control system for Pakistan Navy's frigates.

According to sources despite the increasing use of passive sensors such as electro-optics (E-O) and electronic support measures (ESM) radar remains the principal means of surveillance, warning and target indication for surface combatants. They said conventional two-dimensional (2D) surveillance radar, designed to ascertain the range and bearing of targets. operate at relatively low frequencies (typically in the D-band) using a rotating aerial to scan with a narrow horizontal beam width. Such sets are general credited with detection range beyond 225 km. A number of factors are current driving Pakistan to improve its radar performance.

Most apparent is the increased propensity for operations in littoral waters rather then open ocean. The prevalent conditions close to shore make for a far more demanding operation environment, requiring existing radar to offer improved target detection and tracking performance.

Aside from frequency, other principle factors affecting surveillance radar performance are peak power, pulse repetition frequency (PRF), pulse duration, scan rate, receiver sensitivity which affect the ability of radar of detect target echoes, data renewal and directivity.

Pakistan Navy recently contracted "Signal" to supply its DA-08 F-band surveillance radar for retrofit to six ex-RN Type-21 frigates. DA-08 will replace the current Type 992 system.

The Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) of India has already developed its own two shipborne surveillance radar for retrofit applications. The PFN 513 is an F band system providing medium range air and surface warning and target indication system. BEL's PLN 517 is a long-range air warning radar operating in L band.

Pakistan is also reported to be examining South African A44 light weight torpedo system to be adopted with TOT. The torpedo is essentially a MK 44 body fitted with anew 325mtn directed energy warhead and a new homing system. It is designed to run at a speed of 32kts and has an endurance of six minutes.

Legislators Meet Bhutto; Mid-Term Vote Ruled Out

BK0809161895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Sep 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Many members of the National Assembly and the Punjab Assembly called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Lahore today and discussed with her the latest political situation in the country, including Punjab. They expressed confidence in the leadership of the prime minister and assured her of their full cooperation in the promotion of democratic process in the province and in the country as a whole. Those who met the prime minister included Ghulam Farid Chishti of Pak Pattan belonging to the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz [PML-N] group, Sardarzada Ghulam Abbas, Nawab Sher Wazir, and Rana Sohail Noon.

Later talking to Radio Pakistan's correspondent, Ghulam Farid Chishti said even though he belongs to the PML-N, he supports the right cause for the stability of the democratic process in the country. He said he understands that the Federal Government has taken the right step by suspending the corrupt chief minister [of the Punjab].

The Pakistan Democratic Front [PDF] central leadership has decided to convene a meeting of the PDF parliamentary party of the Punjab and its allies in Islamabad on Sunday [10 September] at 1700. A PDF spokesman said in Lahore today that the meeting will be presided over by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and will consider the overall political situation in the Punjab and other related issues.

Federal Minister Dr. Sher Afghan has said that the present government will complete its term of office and there will no midterm elections. In a meet-the-press program in Faisalabad, he described the president's action in Punjab as correct, saying the provincial government was not being run properly. He also said that the PDF alliance is intact.

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